1948 STATE CHAMPS

1994 STATE CHAMPS

1935

1955

1947

GO PANTHERS!

1956

1948

1964

1951

1973

1952

1981

1953

1988

AN HISTORICAL TRIBUTE

To Boys Basketball
at
Pinckneyville Community
High School

1954

1994

Skipped 2 Blank Pages
1940 & 1941

GO PANTHERS!

An Historical Tribute to Boys Basketball
at
Pinckneyville Community High School

Presented by

PCHS Panther Booster Club

Thanks

The following people generously offered their assistance in preparing this book. Please acknowledge their special dedication to PCHS Panther Basketball when you have the opportunity to share your thanks for their interest in The Team.

Buck Hurd

Harry Stanton

Glenn Hamilton

Rosalie Thomas

Jerri Luke

Wade Graskewicz

Gene and Romana Stotlar

Debbie McDonald

Lina Rae Linder

Dick Corn

Danny and Tammi Robinson

The Pinckneyville Public Library

Joe Crawford

Ted Cunningham

Mary Rushing

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GO PANTHERS!

An Historical Tribute to Boys Basketball
at
Pinckneyville Community High School

An hisotrical tribute may have any number of purposes. Each purpose will have its own standards and expected characteristics. The purpose of this tribute is to celebrate Panther basketball!

Winners write history, and Pinckneyville enjoys a living heritage of winning basketball. This is reflected throughout the community, so the celebration is as much about Pinckneyville as it is about the Panther's winning history.

When we think of a history, we may think of all the things a history can do for its readers. Readers understandably expect certain questions to be answered by the presentation of a history. It is expected the reader will be made aware of the important event that occurred, who did them, what was thought about them then and what has been thought about them since, and how and why those particular events play a significant role in the story the history reveals.

In all of these respects, this is a celebration of the community's dedication to generations of PCHS students, who have carried the banner of Panther Team Spirit into the arenas of high school basketball, and who have returned many times with the laurels of victory.

The importance of Pinckneyville in being a cause of the Panther's success can not be ignored. Many aspects of this are reflected in the following pages. But many others, such as the intangible effects of our families, and those who touch our lives, are themselves at best merely reflected by the records that are kept and the gleaming trophies that are earned.

The real value of history is not found in its records and its symbols of honor and merit. It is found in the hearts and minds of those who made the committment to be there, and not in whether they won or lost, but rather, because they were there, because they played the game, and because they cheered their team to victory. In this respect, all of Pinckneyville proves it is a winner.

The community's significance as a cause does not overshadow the fact that it still took a ballplayer, in the last few seconds of a long, strenuous game, to find the confidence and fortitude that leads them to naturally pass the ball to another player who, with equal courage and integrity, fights to the right spot and the exact instant the ball arrives, sets up and swishes the gamewinning shot!

All of the how and why of history leads up to that moment, and it is those moments, and the championship games that framed them, that this tribute celebrates.

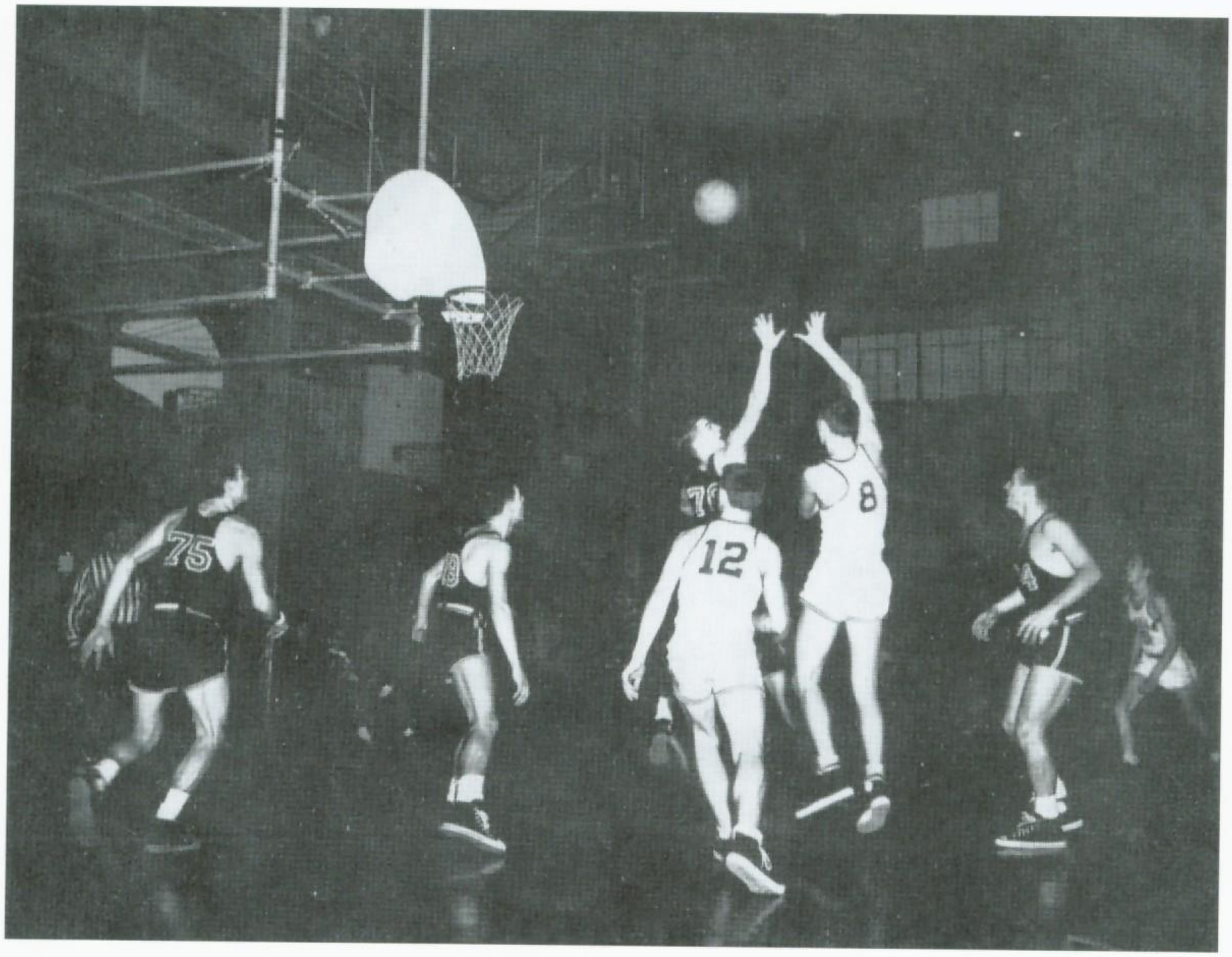
I. The Early Days

FIRST PINCKNEYVILLE BASKETBALL TEAM--1909-1910--This basketball team played on an outside court. Left to right are Principle F. G. Warren, Promoter of Athletics in Pinckneyville schools, Clyde Woosley, W. A. Kane, Pat Glasgoe, Jim Thetford, Ted McDonald, Harry Wilson.

FIRST PINCKNEYVILLE BASKETBALL TEAM TO PLAY ON INDOOR COURT--1916-1917 Back row, Richard Stanton, Harry Neville, Eb Harris, Coach and Principle, Ernie Williams. Front row, George Bartle, Bill Montgomery, Eluin Firth and Geltz Templeton. This Team Played in the Old Opera House above the building which now houses the Hirsch Store here.

JUNIOR CHAMPIONS.
1927-28

P.J.H.I
1931-32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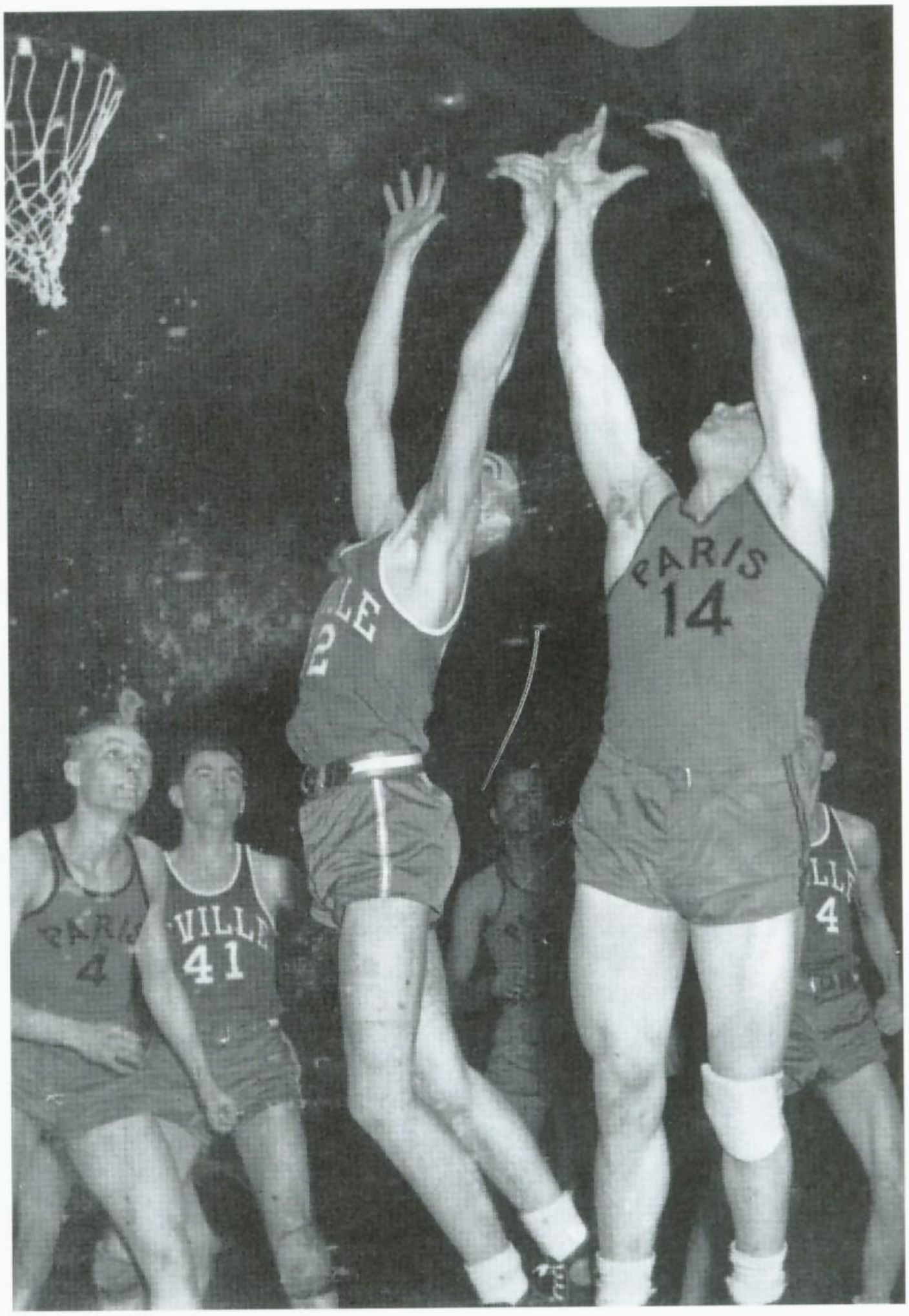
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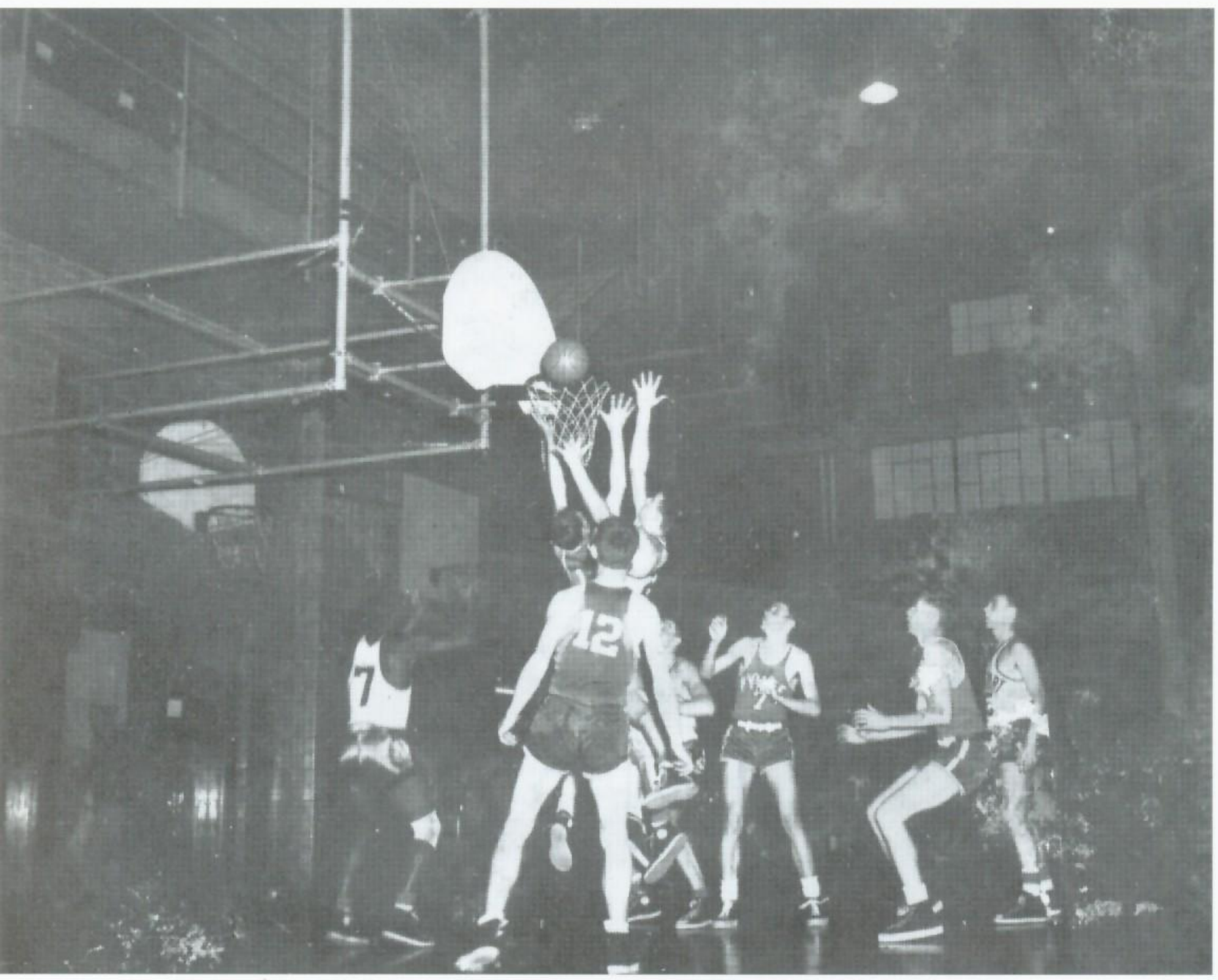
The Old High School

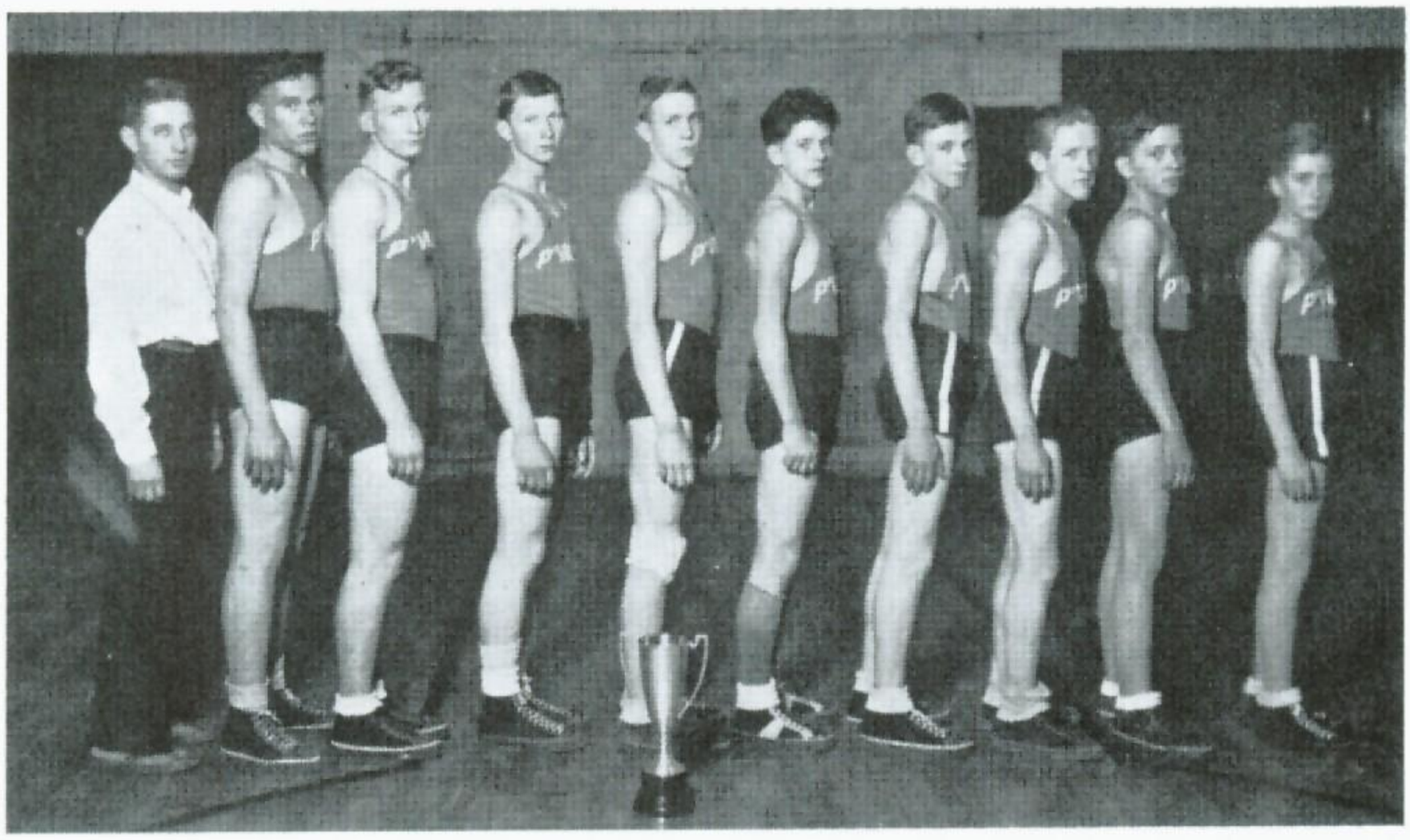


The Old Gym

1935

Top row—Gruner, Manager; Morganthaler, Carson, Schroeder, Meyerhoff, Kish, Coach.
Bottom row—Frazer, Vogel, Sheeley, Hurd, Matika, Ledendecker.

Pinckneyville Blue Streaks B. B. Team beats Sesser 47-16; Margenthaler nets 15, Buck Hurd 9. Boxing match after game between Dale Sams and Frankie Fourth; Duster Thomas was ring master. Blue Streaks beat Elkville Blue Birds 23-22. PCHS defeats Ashley 53-51. 1,200-hp 110-mph "COMET" train to go on 5-hour 300 mile I. C. run between Chicago and St. Louis; old time cut by one third. Christopher defeats P'ville Tuesday night, 33-24. Basketball Star Milton "Mitty" Margenthaler injured in accident; hit by friend's car while waiting to be picked up on slick hardroad near high school. High school team defeats Belleville 27-11. Illinois Athletic Association District B-Ball Tournament to be held in PCHS gym, March 6-8. Elkville Blue Birds defeat Pinckneyville 31-22. Pinckneyville defeats Ashley; score 45-37. Pinckneyville wins District Tourney here, defeats DuQuoin Indians 32 to 25. Blue Streaks win 1st game in Sectional Tourney. Blue Streaks win Sectional at Salem, defeat Mt. Vernon 37-30. Rotarians entertain basketball players Monday evening. Duster Thomas freshmen-sophomores win Sparta Tournament. Train chartered by P'ville business men to State Tournament. Blue Streaks lose 1st game at State.



Thomas, Coach; Hurd, Sparks, Mumbower, Messamore, Cowans, Thomas, Stanton, Bartley, Crawford.

FRESHMAN-SOPHOMORE TEAM

The Freshman-Sophomore team has played preliminary games for the varsity throughout the season besides their scheduled games with three-year schools. By winning 34 out of 35 games, including three tournaments which they won, these fellows proved the excellent coaching ability of Assistant Coach Thomas. The first tournament was an invitational at Cutler for Class B schools of three or four years. The next tournament was a three-year school meet at Steeleville. The last was the Freshman-Sophomore tournament at Sparta. In this tournament they were at the height of their season's form, winning the championship game from Coulterville, 47-13. The boys who are outstanding on this year's squad are: Hurd, Messamore, Crawford, Sheley Thomas, and Sims, Freshmen, returning next years; Sparks, Cowans, Matika, Stanton, Bartley, and Mumbower, Sophomores, who will go to varsity along with a few of the above freshmen. They closed the season with a post-season game against a team of giants from the countryside, some of whom should be attending high school. They won 29-22. In this game their shooting ability, which should win them a place on the first team next season, was brought out. Much time was spent with these boys by Assistant Coach Thomas.

1936

1937

Top Row: Kish (coach), Cowans, Sparks, Messamore, Thoms, Glotfelty, Myerhoff, S. Thomas (coach).
Bottom Row: Kelley (manager), Bartley, Stanton (captain), Duvardo, Crawford, Matika.

Varsity Basketball

The varsity team had a successful season this year, winning the regional tournament at Sparta and finishing third in conference play. Eight of the boys were Seniors that will be graduated this year. The outstanding game of the season was the defeat of DuQuoin, 33-30, on our own home court, for DuQuoin's only conference loss. Chester, Coulterville, and Marissa were defeated in the regional tournament. We were defeated by Metropolis in the sectional at Carbondale.

1938

Back: Caveglia, Manager; Thomas, Asst. Coach; McCormick, Sheley, Marlow, Mumbower, Kish, Coach; Guy, Asst. Manager.
Front: Branum, Fox, Martin, Messamore, Crawford, Gladson.

Varsity Basketball

The Pinckneyville Blue Devils of 1938 completed one of the most successful seasons enjoyed by a Pinckneyville team in some years. Besides being co-champions of the Central Egyptian Conference, the Blue Devils won their Regional Tournament held at Pinckneyville by defeating DuQuoin 22 to 20 in the finals, and went to the semi-finals of the Carbondale Sectional where they met defeat at the hands of Herrin by the close score of 31 to 28.

During the regular playing season the Blue Devils won 14 and lost 7 games. In tournament play they defeated Steeleville, Marissa and DuQuoin in the Regional and Wolf Lake in the Sectional before being eliminated by Herrin. Starting January 28 against Sparta, Pinckneyville set some sort of a record by winning nine consecutive games before being defeated by the same Sparta team, February 25. In conference play Pinckneyville had a record of eight victories and four defeats.

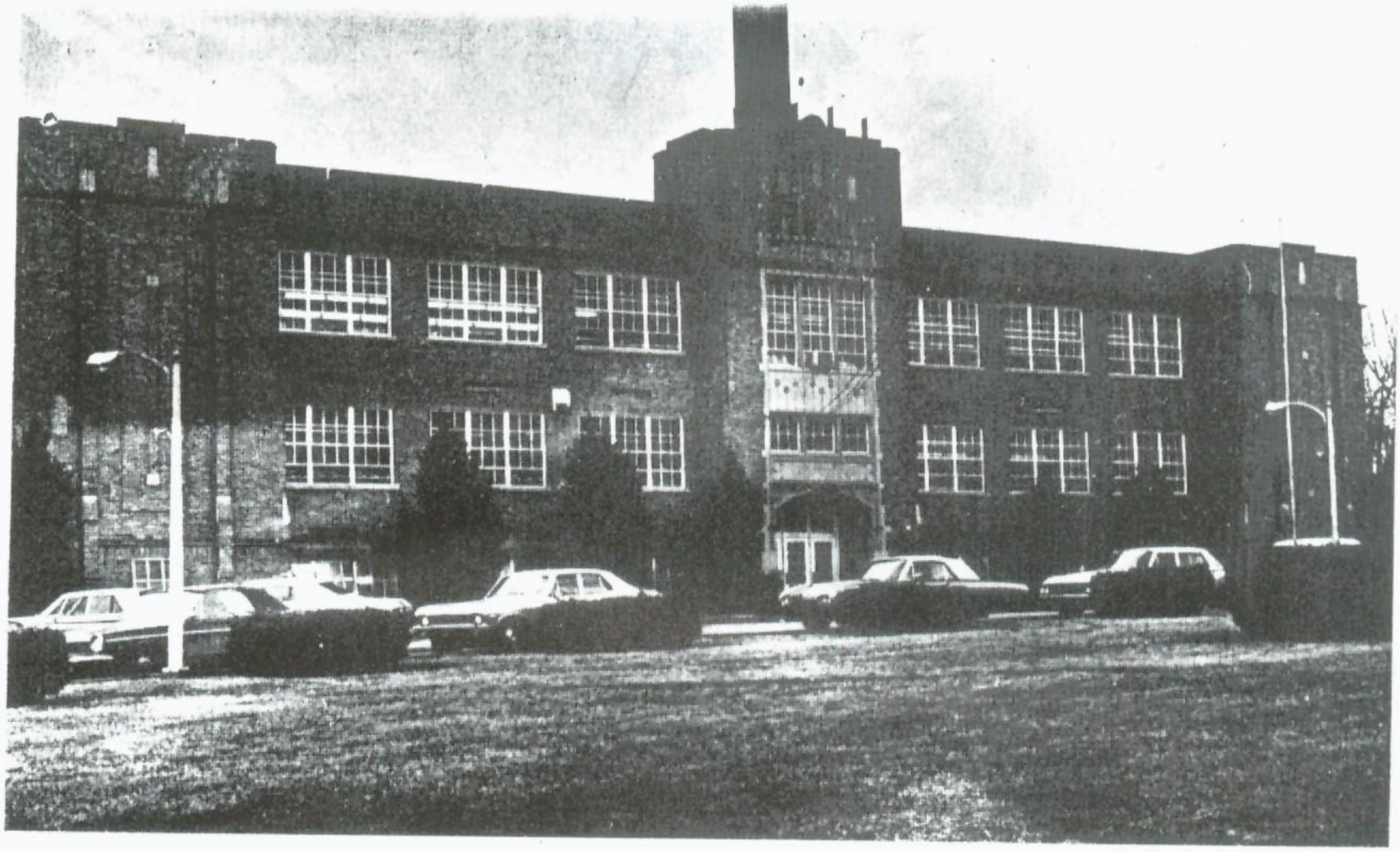
The following boys are seniors and will graduate: Branum, Martin, Crawford, Messamore, and Sheley. We congratulate Mr. Kish and his boys for their success in basketball this season of 1937-38.

1939

II. The Duster Years

II. The Duster Years

Merrill "Duster" Thomas

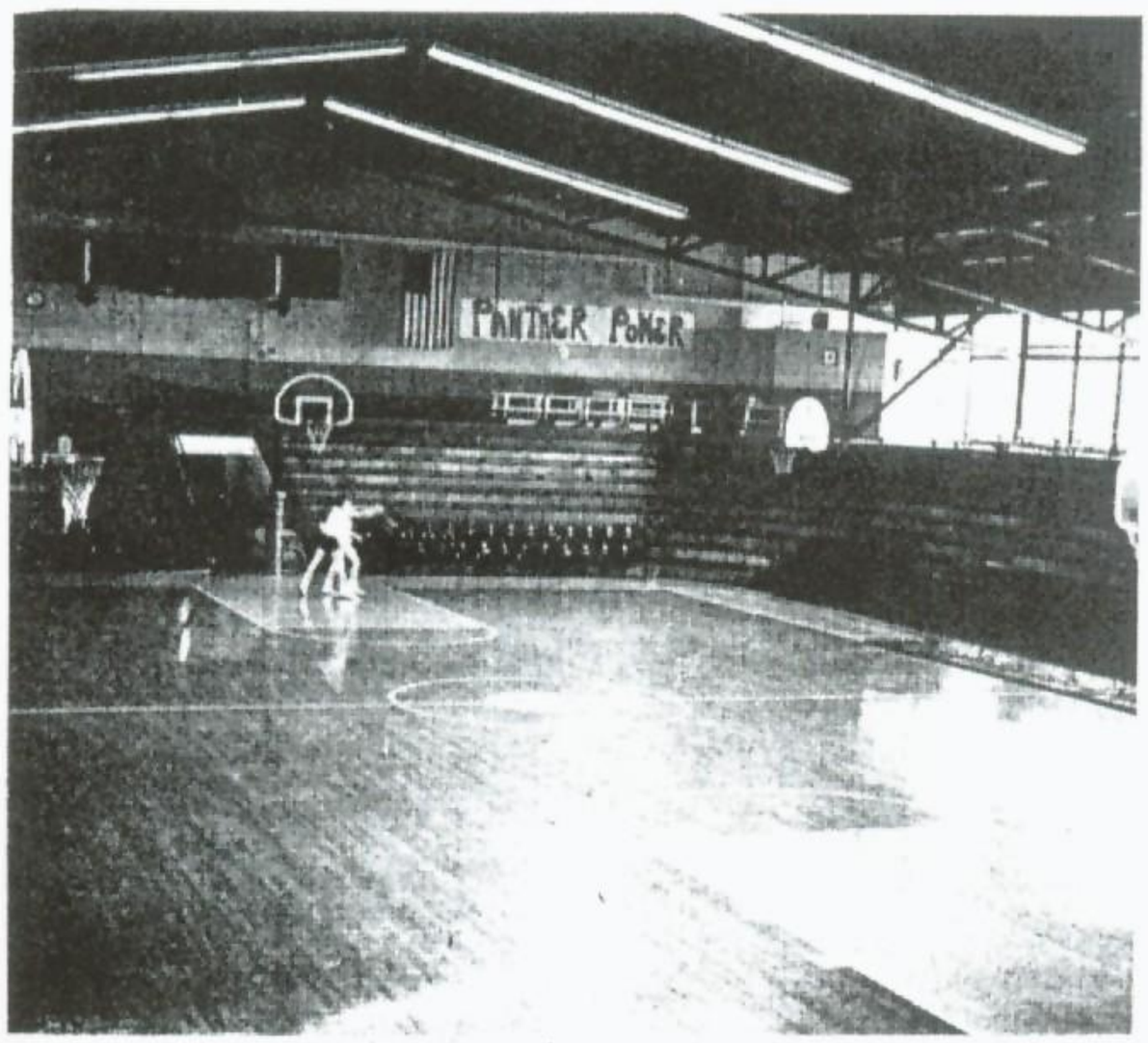


DUSTER THOMAS—A LEGEND AT PINCKNEYVILLE

Success didn't come overnight for Duster Thomas as he first spent nine years as an assistant coach at Pinckneyville before taking over the reigns in 1938. But he made up for it quickly and in 19 years his teams captured 15 regional trophies.

In 1947, the Panthers finished third and in 1948 they won the State Championship. Members of that 1948 squad were Tom Millikin, Dave Davis, Percy Clippard, Bob Johnson and Frank Gladson. After missing out the next two years, the Panthers made six straight trips to Champaign. The 1953, 1954 and 1955 teams all finished third and it moved one sports writer to comment, "they should call the third place trophy, the Duster Thomas Trophy." The Panthers were also in Champaign in 1951, 1952 and 1956 as members of the 'Sweet Sixteen.'

Duster's teams also claimed Southwestern Egyptian Titles in 12 of his last 14 years of coaching and Don Stanton (now the Pinckneyville Principal) followed with four more titles in the next five years. In all, Panther basketball teams have won 20 Conference crowns since they joined the conference in 1940.



Duster's philosophy changed in 1947, "and I should have changed it before then," he said. "Until 1947, we were always a fast-break team and we won a lot of games during the regular season but we never got to Champaign and I felt that the major reason was because the kids were tired of running by March. So, in 1947 I slowed things down and we turned to a tougher defense and ball-handling type of game."

"I always looked for the good students who had desire plus and would work hard," he continued. "Boys that wanted to make something of themselves and would go on to college was a main objective. Over my last nine years as coach at Pinckneyville, 29 of 30 varsity basketball players went on to college."

Beginning with the 1951 Duster Thomas team and continuing into Don Stanton's coaching career at Pinckneyville, Panther teams won 12 consecutive regional titles from 1951-1962.

During Duster's last year as head coach in 1957, the Board of Education at Pinckneyville named the gymnasium appropiately enough, Thomas Gymnasium.

After retiring from the coaching game he stayed on as a teacher until last year. "He still teaches part-time," said Don Stanton.

The accomplishments of Duster Thomas are too numerous to mention. For instance, he not only coached basketball, but at one time or another he also coached football, golf, cross-country and track.

During his last year as head football coach in 1950, Pinckneyville fielded their greatest team. Besides winning the conference championship theyr were the only unbeaten untied Panther team in history and who was the quarterback ? A fellow by the name of Don Stanton.

Stanton was not only an All-State football player that year but also made the All-State basketball as well.

During Duster's reign he had numerous All-Staters. Before he started naming them off he stated that, "I hope I don't leave anyone off. But I think I've got them all.

Jim Mccurdy of the 1944 team was the first. He was also the state high-jump champion that year. Also in '44 was Bob Stanton (Don's brother). Gene Stotlar made it in 1945 and he later made All-American at SIU and is now a doctor in Pinckneyville.

"Bob johnson and Frank Gladson both made it off the championship team in 1948 and in 1951, Don Stanton was an All-Stater. In 1952, Warren Talley made it and he's presently the Sports Editor of Chicago Today I believe," Duster related.

"Ron Purcell was an All-Stater in 1954 as a junior and then transferred to Litchfield where he repeated in 1955. There was also Hubie Purcell, John Daffron and Don Margenthaler."

Stanton also had his share of All-State performers at Pinckneyville including Jack Margenthaler (now the basketball coach at LaSalle-Peru) and Sam Ulrich (presently, the current Pinckneyville coach.

1942

Coach Merrill Thomas and his basketeers finished a successful season with a record of twenty wins and seven losses. This year's team was the youngest to represent Pinckneyville in many a decade, having three seniors and two sophomores.

The Panthers, during their regular playing season, were not beaten outside of the conference. They tied with Murphysboro for fourth place in the conference.

The outstanding feature of the season was the reaching of the finals in the Collinsville sectional. Finishing second in the regional, they just won over East St. Louis and Collinsville, and were defeated by Wood River in the final game of the sectional.

Unruh, six feet five and one-half center from Percy, was our leading scorer during the season, with 303 points. Reese, a senior and honorary captain, was next with 266. Next came Sophomore Bob Rothenberger with 243. Rouff, also a sophomore, was next with 102. Condellire, a Willisville product, followed with 85.

Our capable reserve strength was made up of Gemmill, Edwards, Pundsack, Schneider, and McCurdy.

BASKETBALL

LEFT TO RIGHT: Condellire, Edwards, Reese (captain), Pundsack, Unruh, Coach Thomas, Gemmill, McCurdy, Rouff, Rothenberger, Stanton.

1943

Merrill Thomas, Coach

The varsity quintet, under the capable leadership of Coach Merrill Thomas, has made an excellent showing this season. The team had four lettermen returning; namely, Bob "Osie" Rothenberger, Bob "Spot" Stanton, Fred Pundsack, and Jim McCurdy. The boys who are playing their first year of varsity basketball are: Albert Guebert, Edgar Alms, and Ezra Kessel from Percy, and Winton Keene, "Pete" Hicks, Gene Stotlar and Don Noward from Pinckneyville. At the end of the first nine weeks, the team suffered a great loss when Bill Rouff, a former P.C.H.S. letterman, moved to Mt. Vernon.

Last year the Pinckneyville quintet had an excellent record when they took second place in the Regional Tournament and then went to the Collinsville Sectional. This year, the Panther five also took second place in the Regional, suffering defeat at the hands of the DuQuoin Indians. However, in accordance with this year's plans, they did not enter the Sectional.

We were very proud of the Panthers this year, but expect them to come back with more force and fight next year.

BLUE AND WHITE BOMBERS

SCHEDULE FOR 1942-43

Date	Team	They	We
Nov. 27	Ashley	24	45
Dec. 8	Nashville	38	39
Dec. 15	Christopher	12	40
Dec. 18	DuQuoin	28	41
Jan. 1	Murphysboro	50	41
Jan. 8	Anna-Jonesboro	51	49
Jan. 9	Marissa	35	63
Jan. 15	Chester	35	55
Jan. 16	Elkville	25	32
Jan. 19	Sparta	31	53
Jan. 22	Carbondale	26	36
Jan. 26	Christopher	33	40
Jan. 29	DuQuoin	32	36
Feb. 2	Murphysboro	47	35
Feb. 9	Carbondale	40	28
Feb. 12	Anna-Jonesboro	44	47
Feb. 16	Nashville	36	48
Feb. 19	Chester	27	34
Feb. 20	Marissa	38	55
Feb. 22	Sparta	28	57
Feb. 23	Ashley	47	39
Feb. 27	Mt. Vernon	49	26

First Row: Bob Stanton, Pete Hicks, Bob Rothenberger, Fred Pundsack, Evan Thomas.

Second Row: Jim Benedict, Manager; Jim McCurdy, Edgar Alms, Winton Keene, Albert Guebert, Jake Perzia, Merrill Thomas, Coach.

1944

MERRILL THOMAS, Coach

BASKETBALL SCHEDULES

		They	We
November	24—Tamoroa	23	99
	27—Marissa	33	55
December	4—Nashville	30	51
	10—Sparta	31	53
	11—Centralia	20	60
	14—Christopher	27	44
	17—Du Quion	35	46
	21—Murphysboro	23	68
	Mt. VERNON TOURNAMENT		
	28—Urbana	39	43
	29—Morton	34	37
	30—East Peoria	35	47
	31—Mt. Vernon	19	30
January	7—Anna	40	53
	14—Chester	20	79
	15—Elkville	18	73
	18—Herrin	35	60
	21—Carbondale	26	37
	25—Christopher	31	50
	28—Du Quion	43	38
	29—Sparta	35	56
February	4—Murphysboro	34	71
	5—Centralia	30	45
	8—Carbondale	29	41
	11—Anna	55	54
	16—Taylorville	40	29
	18—Chester	27	79
	10—Nashville	32	54
	22—Mt. Vernon	33	45
	REGIONAL TOURNAMENT		
	29—Chester	37	59
March	2—Nashville	47	59
	3—DuQuion	54	61
	SECTIONAL TOURNAMENT		
	9—West Frankfort (Two overtime periods)	38	36

From left to right:
First row: Bill Ulrich, Bob Rothenberger, Gene Stotlar, Winton Keene, Jim McCurdy, Bob Stanton, Merrill Thomas, Coach.

Second row: Don Jones, Don Williams, Pete Hicks, Carl Birkner, Bill Pundsack, R. J. Ginn, Glen Hamilton, Don Noward.

1945

BASKETBALL

Coach "Duster" Thomas once again turned out one of the leading teams of the state.

At the end of the season the Panthers' record stood 30 wins and 6 losses. In conference play they downed all foes and during the year lost to no school with smaller enrollment than themselves, defeating such teams as Edwardsville, Salem, Herrin, and Mt. Vernon to win the Mt. Vernon holiday tourney.

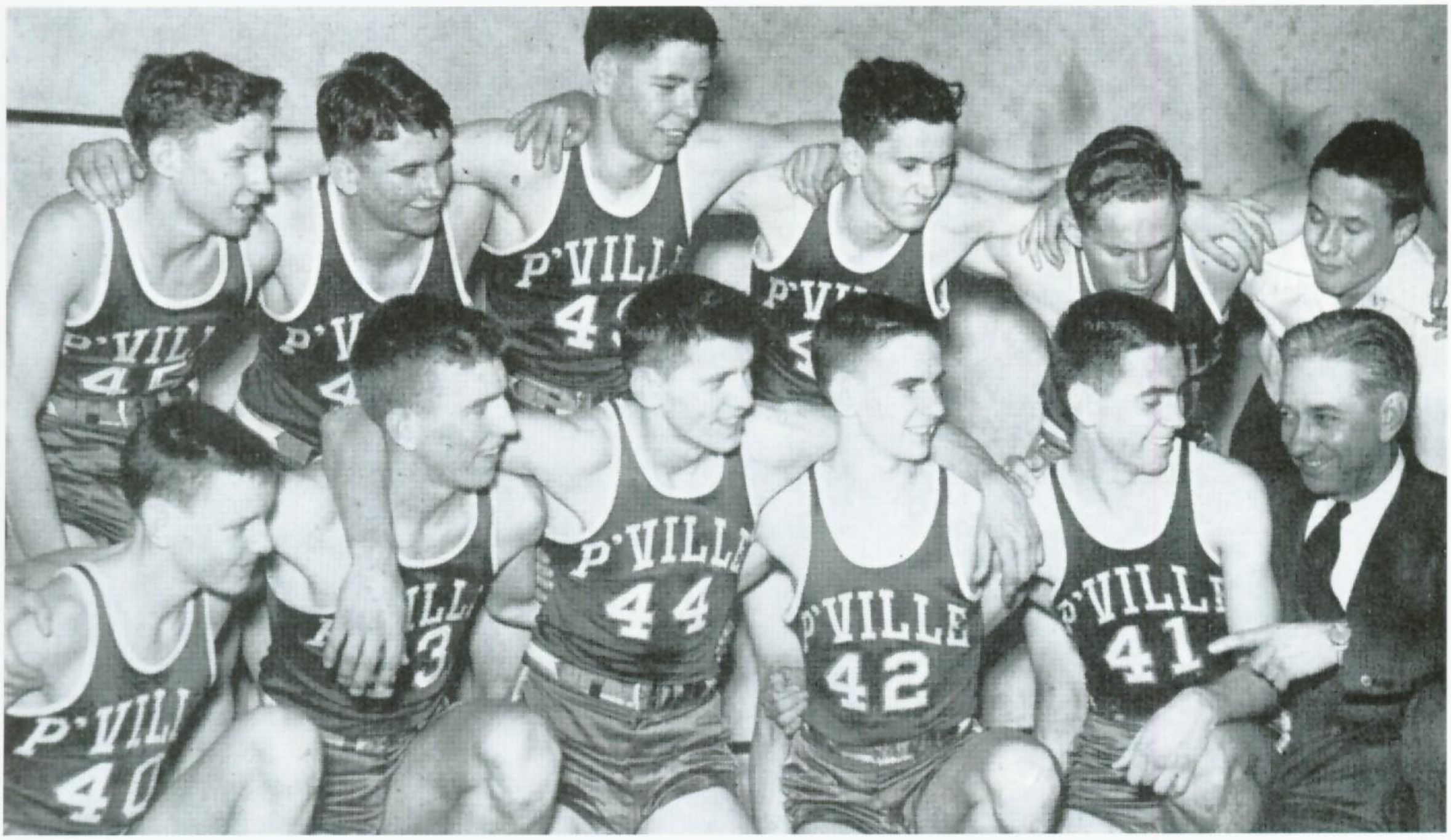
After defeating the DuQuoin Indians for the third straight time of the year to win the Regional, the Panther quintet journeyed to Mt. Vernon where they lost the first game of the Sectional to the Centralia Orphans.

Martin Schroedel
Manager

Date		Team	They
Nov.	23	Coulterville	25
	25	Marissa	37
	28	Nashville	28
Dec.	1	West Frankfort	49
	5	Herrin	51
	8	Sparta	31
	12	Christopher	23
	15	DuQuoin	42
	19	Murphysboro	41
	20	West Frankfort	45
	22	Carbondale	43
	27-29	MT. VERNON TOURNAMENT	
		Edwardsville	50
		Salem	49
		Herrin	41
		Mt. Vernon	29
Jan.	5	Anna-Jonesboro	44
	12	Chester	29
	13	Elkville	34
	17	Johnson City	48
	23	Christopher	37
	26	DuQuoin	43
	27	Sparta	46
	30	Johnson City	43
Feb.	2	Murphysboro	38
	6	Carbondale	40
	9	Anna-Jonesboro	42
	10	Staunton	44
	13	Nashville	33
	16	Chester	47
	17	Mt. Vernon	40
	20	Herrin	51
	22	Marion	44
	28		
Mar.	2	REGIONAL	
		Nashville	33
		Sparta	44
		DuQuoin	34
Mar.	8	SECTIONAL	
		Centralia	56

From left to right: First row—Olin Alms, Bob Rushing, Carl Birkner, Vallie West, Gene Stotlar.
Second row—Merrill Thomas, Coach; Bill Hartwell, Elias Kellerman, Bill Pundsack, Glen Hamilton, Don Williams, Martin Schroedel, Manager.

1947



Panthers place 4th in Tourney at Mt. Vernon, lose to A-J 53-46. Cats halt ndians, Rams, lose to Murphy. Cats tromp Elkville Blue Birds. Conference race tightens as Cats stop Anna, Tom Peeler scores 19, Williams 18. Bob Crawford is top scorer in Knox College B-Ball victory. Cats top Chester, lose to Collinsville.

Doug Craig leads Cats to win over C'dale, Benton. Cats take loop lead after defeating Sparta. Global Cagers and Mt. Vernon All-Stars, traveling professional B-Ball teams, to play at PCHS gym. Donald "Brat" Stanton, PJHS student, makes record 45 foul shots out of 50 throws at Collinsville tournament competition. Panthers keep loop lead as DuQuoin loses 51-44. Herrin suffers 51-41 loss to Cats Friday. Cats lengthen loop lead as A-J loses, 43-24. Nashville Hornets are 60-55 victims of PCHS Panthers. Panthers capture 3rd consecutive loop Crown after win over M'boro. Orphans lose 48-43 thriller to PCHS Panthers. Chester suffers 11th Conference loss, 60-32. W. Frankfort Red Birds are 43-41 victims of Cats. Panthers, Bulldogs win in Regional Semi-finals. Cats tromp Sparta 43-29 to take 4th Regional Crown. Panthers take Mt. Vernon in first Sectional game Wednesday night. 750 P'ville fans see PCHS Panthers win 46-43 decision in overttime.

Panthers win Sectional defeating Centralia Friday night 39-35, play 1st game in State tilt tonight at 9:15. WJPF, WILL to broadcast games.

PCHS PANTHER PLACE THIRD IN STATE! Cats take first game over East Aurora 45-34, second game over Kewanee 47-26, defeated only by Paris 57-50, defeat Pekin 47-42 in consolation game. Cats reach State for 1st time in 12 years. Duster finishes 9th year as Panther coach. Cheerleaders receive huge ovation at State.

The Girls Behind The PCHS Panthers

Front row, reading from left to right, Mary Ann Holloway, Vivian Kay Margenthaler, Alice Templeton, Rosalie Jean Margenthaler, Be Jo Ritter. Back row, standing, from left to right, Joyce Margenthaler, Betty Opp, and Captain June Flynn.

Ken McBride
to a real Coach

It has been a lot of fun this last week.
Frankie Major (Jr.)

Tom Butler

Glen. Victor

This Is to Certify That

MERRILL THOMAS

Doug Craig

is a Coach of the South All-Star Basketball Team for 1947, selected by the Illinois High School Coaches' Association.

Fast Going

It has been a lot of fun working-around. Good luck
Frank Dunne

Ted Beach

"Connie" Hanley

Norman A. Ziebell
President

"Muckle head"

It has been a pleasure working under you for a week. Rex Sebastian

Don Mizenatt

III. The 1948 State Championship

1948

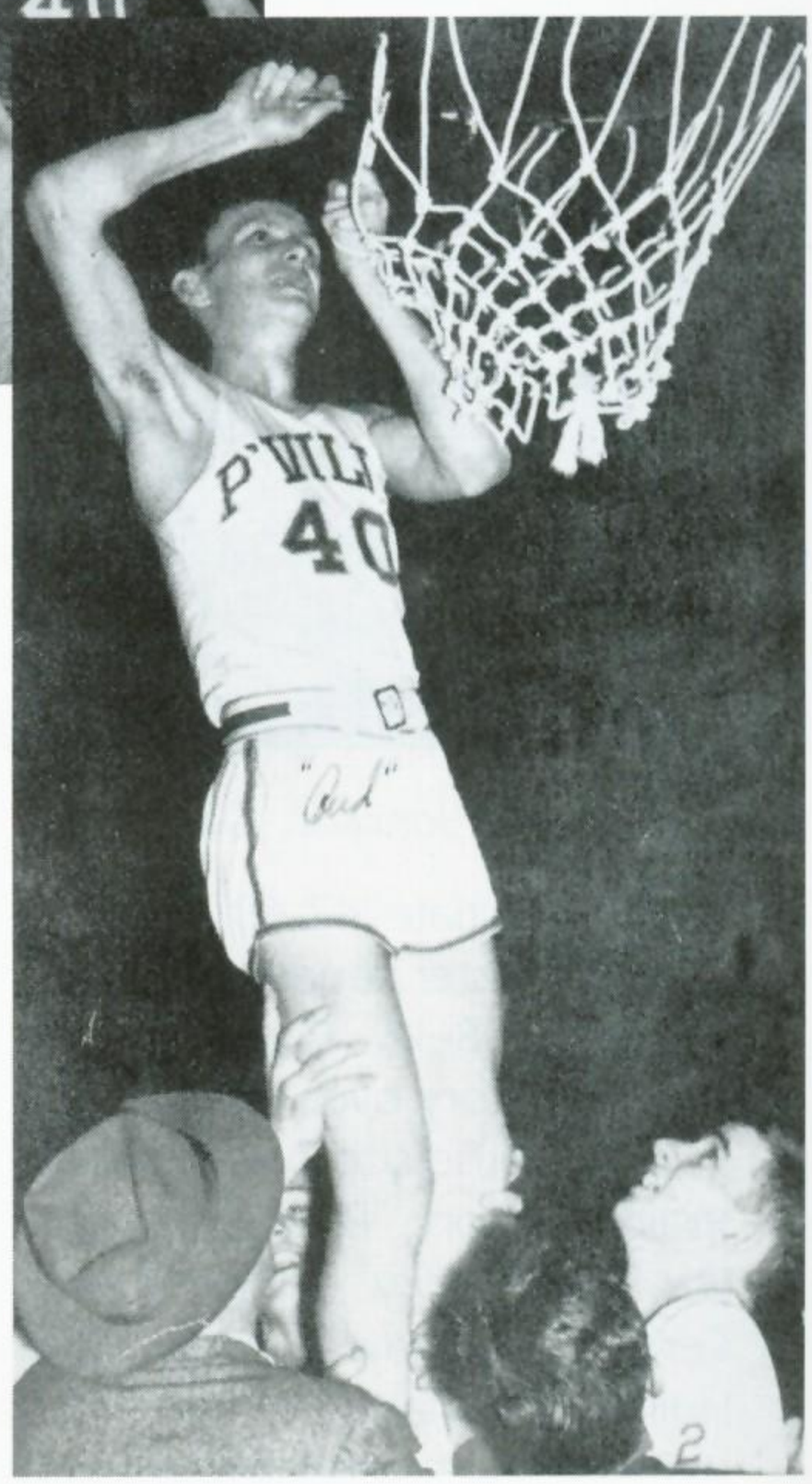
Left to right: Bob Johnson, David Davis, Percy Clippard, Tom Millikin, Frank "Pud" Gladson, Dick Luke

Panthers initiate '47-48 cage season against Nashville Hornets Monday. Three State vets back to bolster squad. Thomasmen open cage season with unimpressive win over Nashville, 38-32. Crossing gates, lights, installed at Wilson St. I. C crossing. Panthers take second victory over Tigers.

Panthers to open Loop season at Sparta Saturday. Thomasmen aim for thrid straight victory. Panthers sparkle in 55-30 win over Sparta, Davis, Gladson pace Cats to first Loop victory. Panthers rated 4th in first UP ratings. Powerdul teams listed in Centralia Holiday Tourney. Panthers vs 12th-rated McComb in 1st round of Mt. Vernon Holiday Tournament. Panthers rack up week end wins over C'dale and W. Frankfort, shifting man-to-man defense major factor.

Cats rated 3rd in UP State rankings. Panthers over McComb in 1st round of Mt. Vernon Tourney. Marshall Plan to cost 22.5 billion dollars. Panthers edge Murphy 38-30, tromp DuQuoin to gain undisputed Conference lead. Cats romp over A-J 78-25; lead Loop by two full games. Panthers offense tops in Loop, DuQuoin leads defensively. Kittens undefeated; average 50 points per game. Panthers drop boom on Rams of Mt. Vernon 45-34. Pinckneyville 8th in UP; Collinsville 1st. Thomasmen wallop Harrisburg in Benton Tournament, 44 to 32. Cats score 145 pts. in two games with wins over C'dale, Benton. Panthers up again in UP ratings, now 7th.

Panthers capture Benton Tournament 1st Place Trophy with win over stubborn Benton Rangers, 55-46. Indians breathe on Panthers but lose out, 32-25. Davis, Gladson voted to 1st Team positions on Benton All-Tourney Team, Johnson, Millikin receive 2nd Team positions. Cats clinch tie for Loop Crown; whip Sparta 39-29, Anna 59-



33. Panthers back to 4th in UP ratings. Pinckneyville hosts Regional Tournament. Panthers end perfect 12-0 Loop season with 45-32 win over M'boro. Cats clinch 5th straight Loop Crown at Chester 42-30. Panthers down W. Frankfort for 16 straight. Cats now 3rd in UP ratings. Cats end regular season with wins over Wood River 58-33 and Granite City 42-35; end season 22-1.

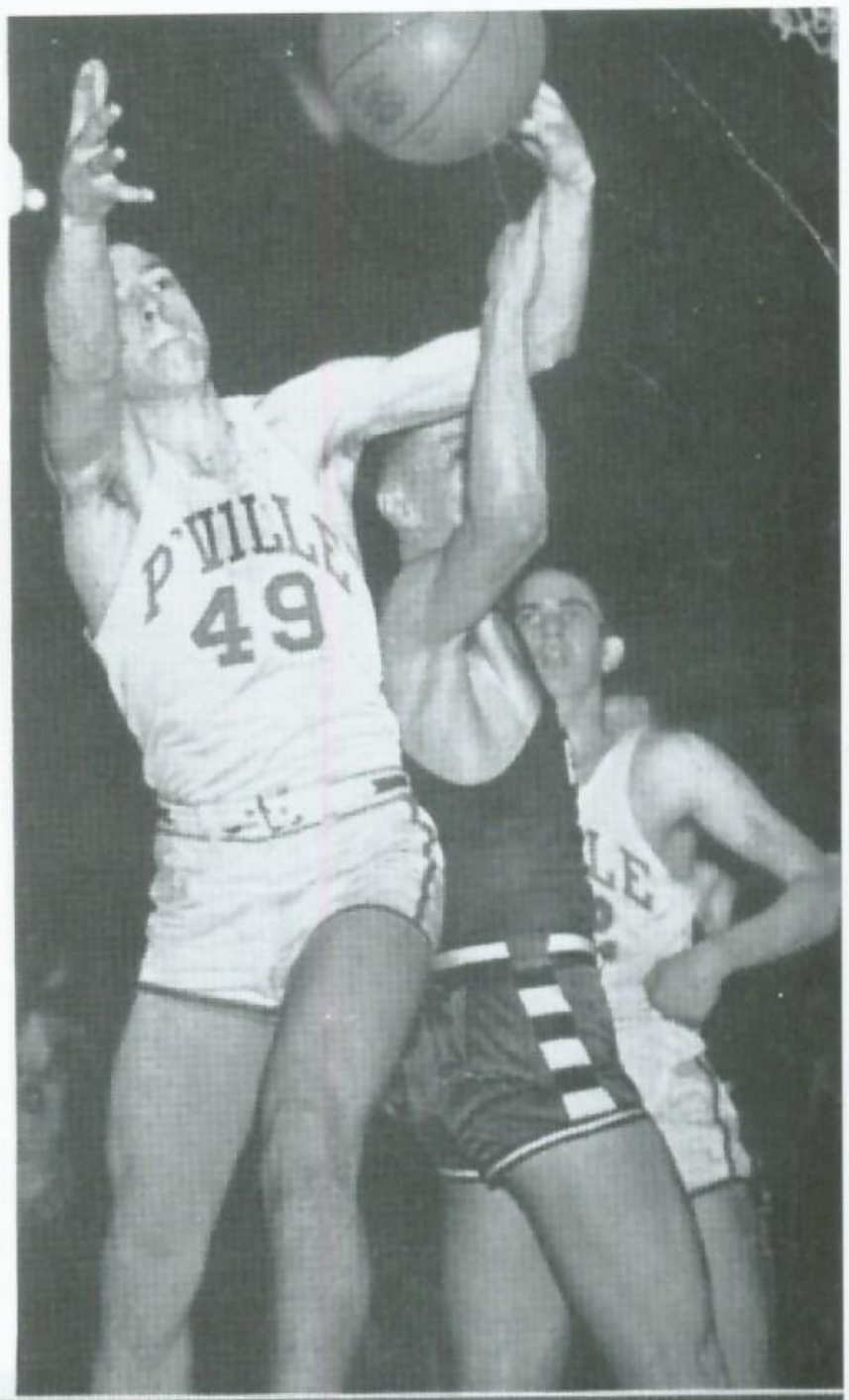
Johnson shoots 84 per cent, scores 28 in leading Panthers to victory over Nashville 73-33 in semi-final Regional game; gate records fall. Pinckneyville back to 4th in State UP ratings. P'ville, Nashville win Regional Tourney openers, Sparta, DuQuoin victorious. Panthers favored to stop W. Frankfort in Sectional tonight. PANTHERS WIN STATE! Proclaimed Champions by widest margin in Tournament's history. Rousing homecoming for State Champs by many homefolks Sunday afternoon. Citizen's Committee raised $1,962 to purchase car for Duster. Three Panthers named to NEWS-Gazette's All-State Team. Rotary Club entertains State Champs. "Duster's" car money to be used for athletics.

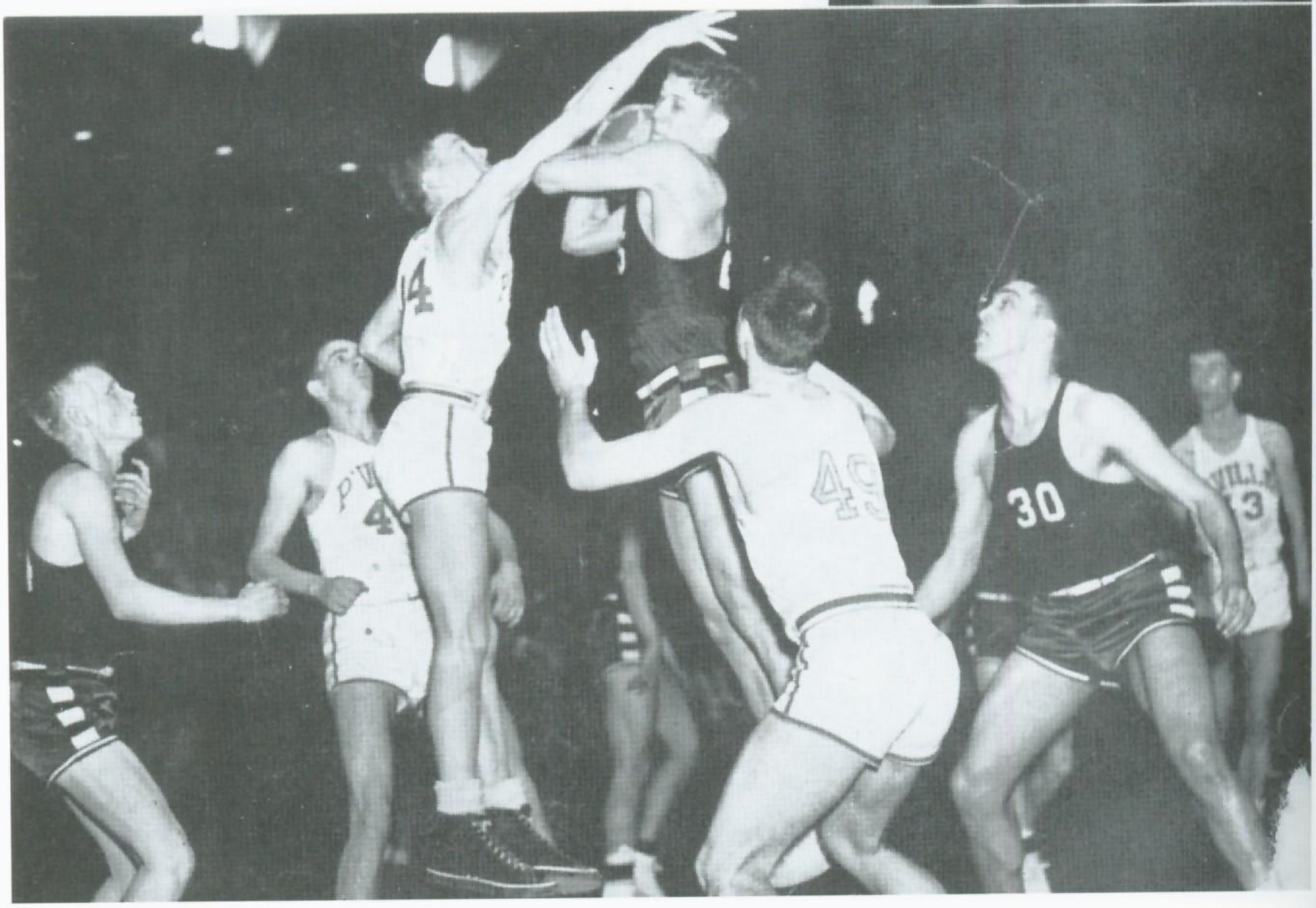
CATS CLAW CATHEDRAL

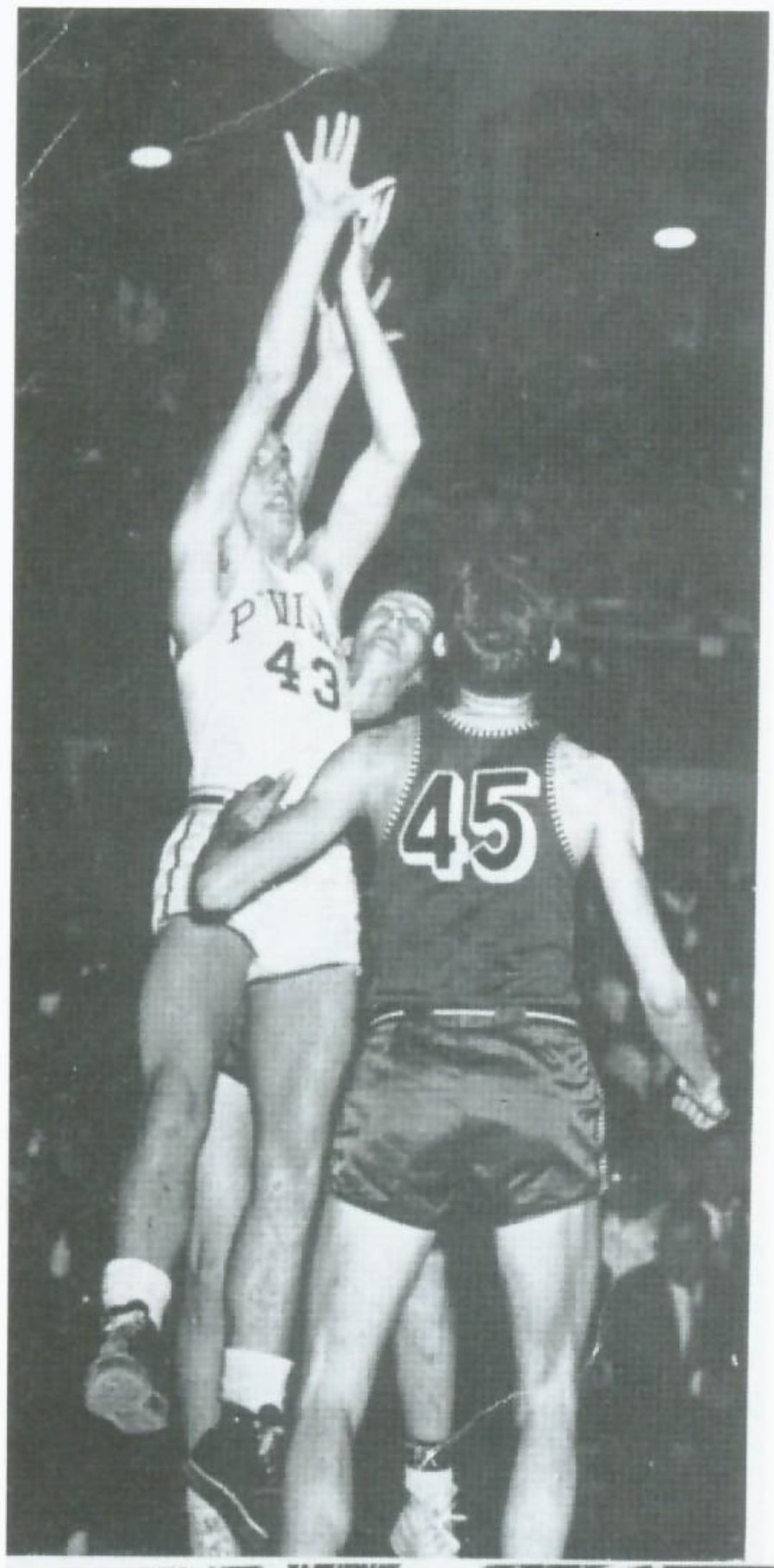
In the quarter-final round of the State Tournament, Pinckneyville ran up against a fast, clever team from Springfield Cathedral. Playing a much better game than on the previous day, the Panthers defeated Cathedral 58 to 36 without getting up a good sweat. The main spark in this thrilling victory was Tom Millikin, who led the scoring parade. Also due a lot of praise in this game was Frank "Pud" Gladson, who outfoxed the Cathedral guards constantly throughout the game. After winning this game by such a decisive margin, the Panthers gained much popularity and were second only to Pekin to win the State Title.

CATS PIN PEKIN

The Pinckneyville-Panther game in the semi-finals turned out to be the game of the tournament. The tourney favorite was Pekin, and all the experts agreed that the winner of this game would be the State Champion. There was plenty of pressure on both teams, but the cool, collected Panther machine started clicking and defeated a very good Pekin team by a score of 36 to 31. In this game the Panther center, Dave Davis, played the best game of his high school career. Besides being high point man, he did outstanding work in the rebounding field. After this game people referred to the Panthers as the "cold steel machine that never hurried and never made a mistake." Another writer said that they had "poise" with a capital "P", and were in complete control of every game.







CATS ELIMINATE E-RABS

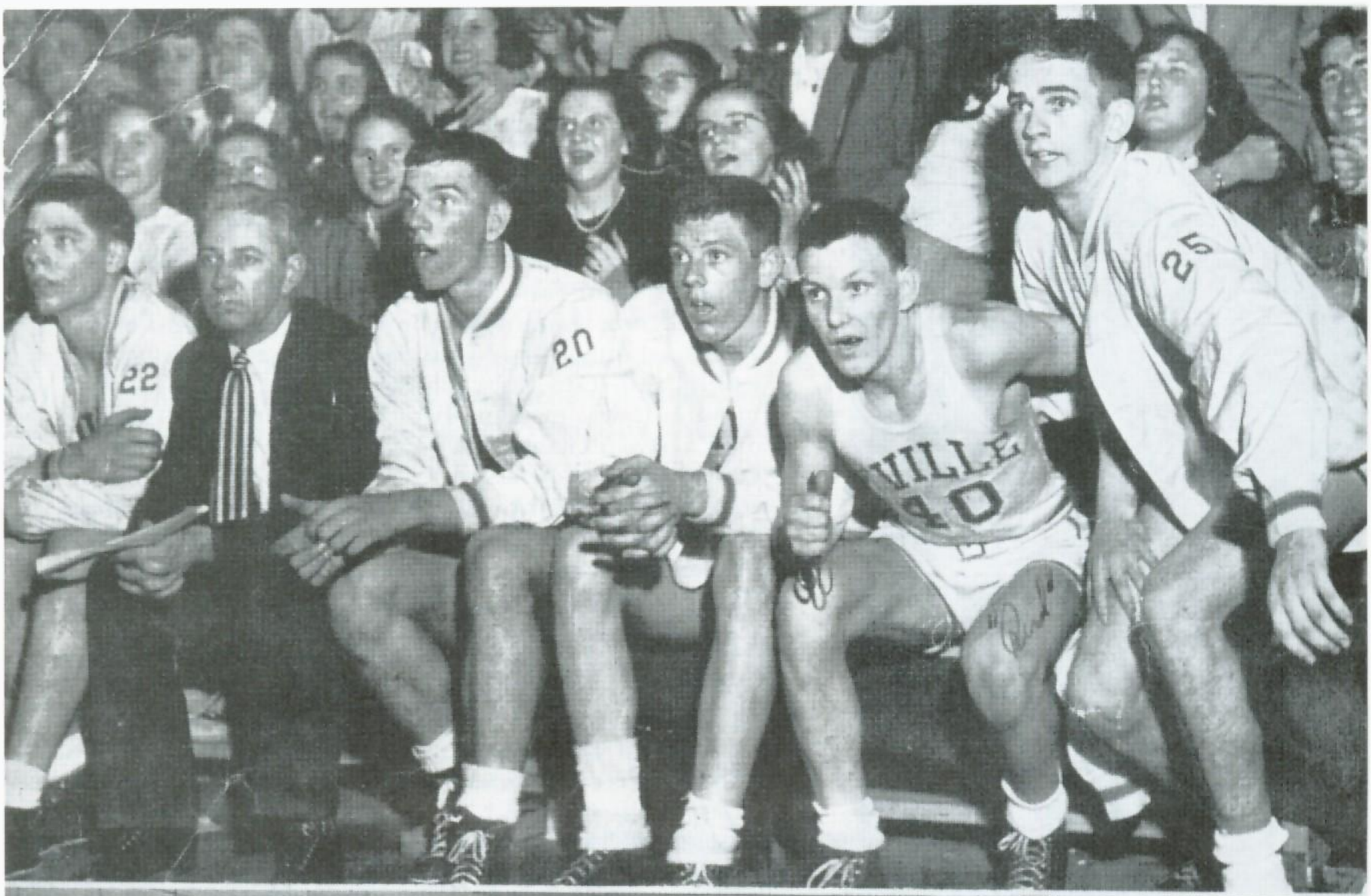
BECOME

STATE CHAMPS

In the championship game the Panthers met a fast-breaking team from East Rockford. Starting out like a ball of fire, the Panthers built up a 9 point lead before Rockford came close to scoring. This scoring spurt was led by All-state Bob Johnson. After the first four minutes it was evident that the East Rockford E-Rabs didn't have a chance. When the final gun went off the Panthers had won 65 to 39, setting an all-time record for the most points scored in a State Championship game. Many sports writers were forced to eat their words when they said that "the slow break is used by a team that can't score, and the only way they can win is by holding the ball."

This was a great climax for a swell gang of Senior boys who were playing their last game for Pinckneyville. The Seniors on the State Championship Team were David Davis, Bob Johnson, Frank Gladson, Tom Millikin, Percy Clippard and Dick Luke, and we say, "Hats off to a swell bunch of guys, a swell basketball team, and a swell coach."

We must not forget our praise for Coach Merrill "Duster" Thomas, who led these boys to the State Championship victory. Also, let's hand out a little praise for Manager Bill Nesbitt for the care he took of the Champs.


22
20
VILLE
25

ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS
ILLINOIS

1949

Charles Reith, Ralph Beck, Don Stanton, Bill Keene, Dale Luke

Jack Davis, Larry Rushing, Delmar Slusher

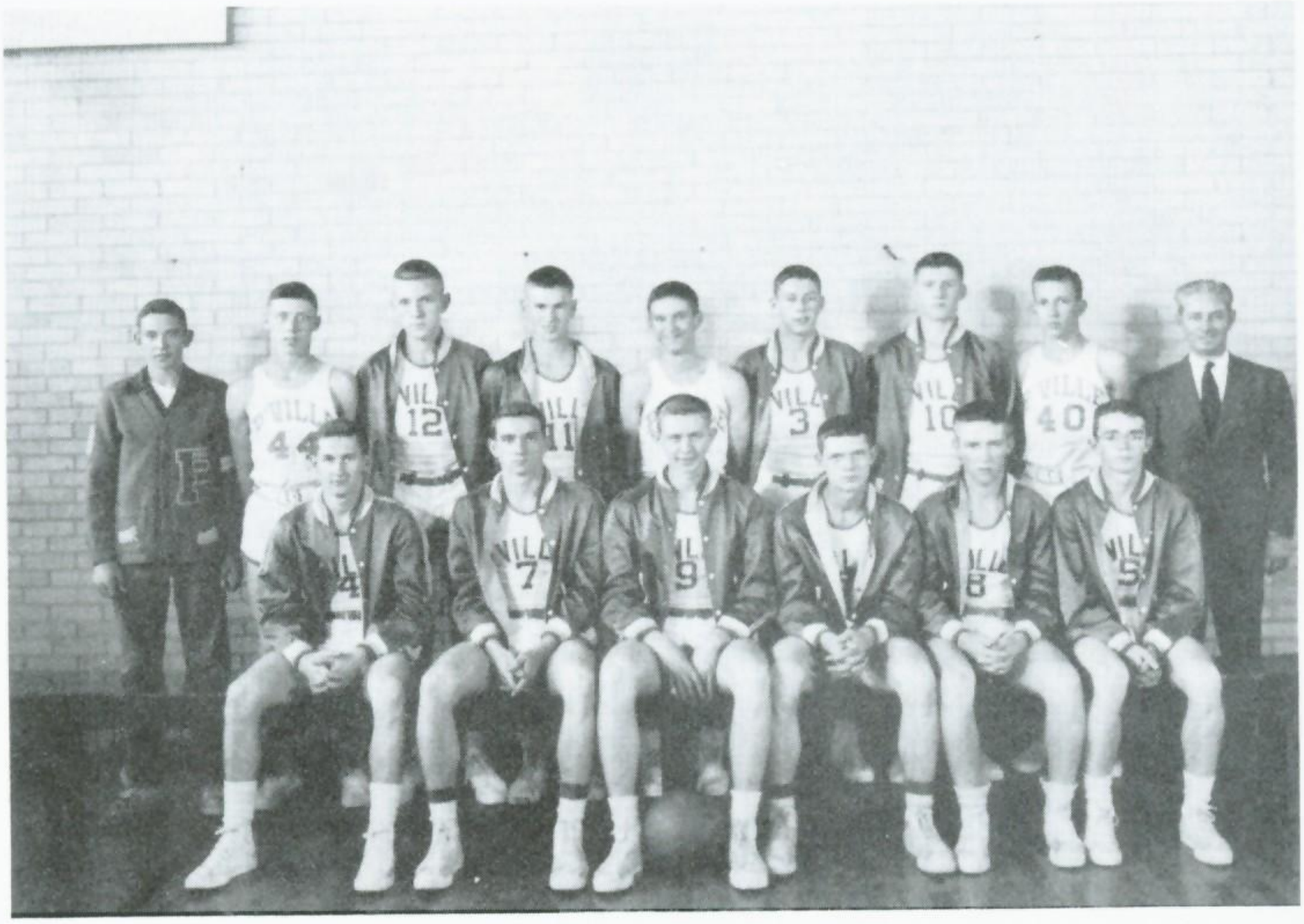
Cats dump Sparta Bulldogs 38-33 in loop tilt here Saturday; tangle with C'dale, West Frankfort over week end. New scoreboard for PCHS gym; fans who have been tearing their hair trying to tell the score can cancel orders for toupees.

Murphy's zone baffles Cats; Bencinimen win 36-30 Tuesday. Thomasmen prepare for battles with Chester, Mt. Vernon; Keene, Slusher, Beck, and Reith will probably open. Cats drop week end twin bill to Chester, Mt. Vernon. Cats lose league tilt to C'dale. Benton falls before Thomasmen. Frankfort eliminates Cats in Benton Tourney. Fan punches ref: cost $114! DuQuoin man says, "I did it". "I'll never do it again," he says after hearing. Principal Roland Keene stated, "These events are held primarily for students, who cause little or no trouble. It is high time...the rowdy adult fans learn to conduct themselves properly".

Cats upset tribe in cage thriller Thursday 47-41. Cape whips Cats at Benton 54-47. A-J whips Cats 59-48. Sparta spanked by Cats 41-33. Panthers draw Hornets for 1st battle of Regional Tourney. Chester edges past Cats 44-41, Murphy slips by Cats 44-40 after a neck and neck thriller. Thomasmen slip by Centralia 41-39; Slusher hits 18. In Pinckneyville, 1st comes B-ball; the regular meeting of the P'ville City Council was postponed this week...the reason: the opening round of the regional tournament. Thomas voodoo over tribe continues; Cats win 51-49; Keene pours in 19. P'ville loses to Nashville in Regional Tournament.

1950

Basketball - Varsity



SITTING, left to right: Dale Luke, Bill Keene, Charles Reith, Delmar Slusher, Don Stanton, and Fred Wieman. STANDING: Melvin Carson, Manager, Leo Hill, Ronnie Beck, Larry Rushing, Verlan Capert, Arlen Carson, Jack Davis, Judson Sours and Coach Thomas.

The Panther Quintet due to their hard work and daily practice have been able to attain much and give other teams stiff competition the past season. Their ambition being to play fair and square in both life and on the basketball court has brought them success in both.

The Panther five is composed of Don Stanton, Charles Reith, Bill Keene, Dale Luke, and Fred Wieman. The capable reserves are Delmar Slusher, Arlen Carson, Larry Rushing, Jack Davis and Verlan Caupert.

Season tickets go on sale Nov. 8th. The drawing for the $8.50 ducats will be at 8:00 pm on the 8th. IHSA will vote on summer practices. Panthers open cage season with 51-28 win over Hornets. Stanton paces scorers with 12. Cats spoil Herrin gym dedication with 39-28 win.

PCHS Board meets with architect Ralph Legman for possible new gym. Belleville wins rough and tumble cage bout 35-31. PCHS cagers tame Sparta 46-34. Cats plastered A-J 63-26 in first SWE contest. Cats trip Sparta in league bout Saturday 46-35. Johnston City whips Cats 36-34. Cats notch easy win over C'dale, 62-37. Panthers beat Salem 47-30 for first tournament victory. Orphans slips by Cats 41-37. Lincoln eliminates Panthers from Centralia Tourney, 54-51.

Thmoas elected President of Illinois High School Coaches Association. Basketball rhubarb and near-violence all in night's work; Mt. Vernon defeats Panthers after fans pour onto floor; Mt. Vernon player ejected. Dial phones slated for P'ville in December. Cats cop twin bill over Terriers 50-32; eliminate Eldorado 41 to 35, face Sparta in semi-finals.

State Representative Hancock buys phone time for cage broadcast; DuQuoin-Pinckneyville game broadcast live in PCHS gym. DuQuoin Indians whips Cats in two overtimes 44-42. Cats cop Benton Invitational cage meet after overtime thriller knocks out Sparta; Thomas strategy works. Cats hand Sparta third walloping of season, 49-40. Cats cuff Chester with blazing last frame rally. Junior high cagers cop regional cage crown at DuQuoin; Hamilton coached crew whips C'dale, Zeigler to win. Panthers nudge Tribe; gain cage tourney finals.

1951

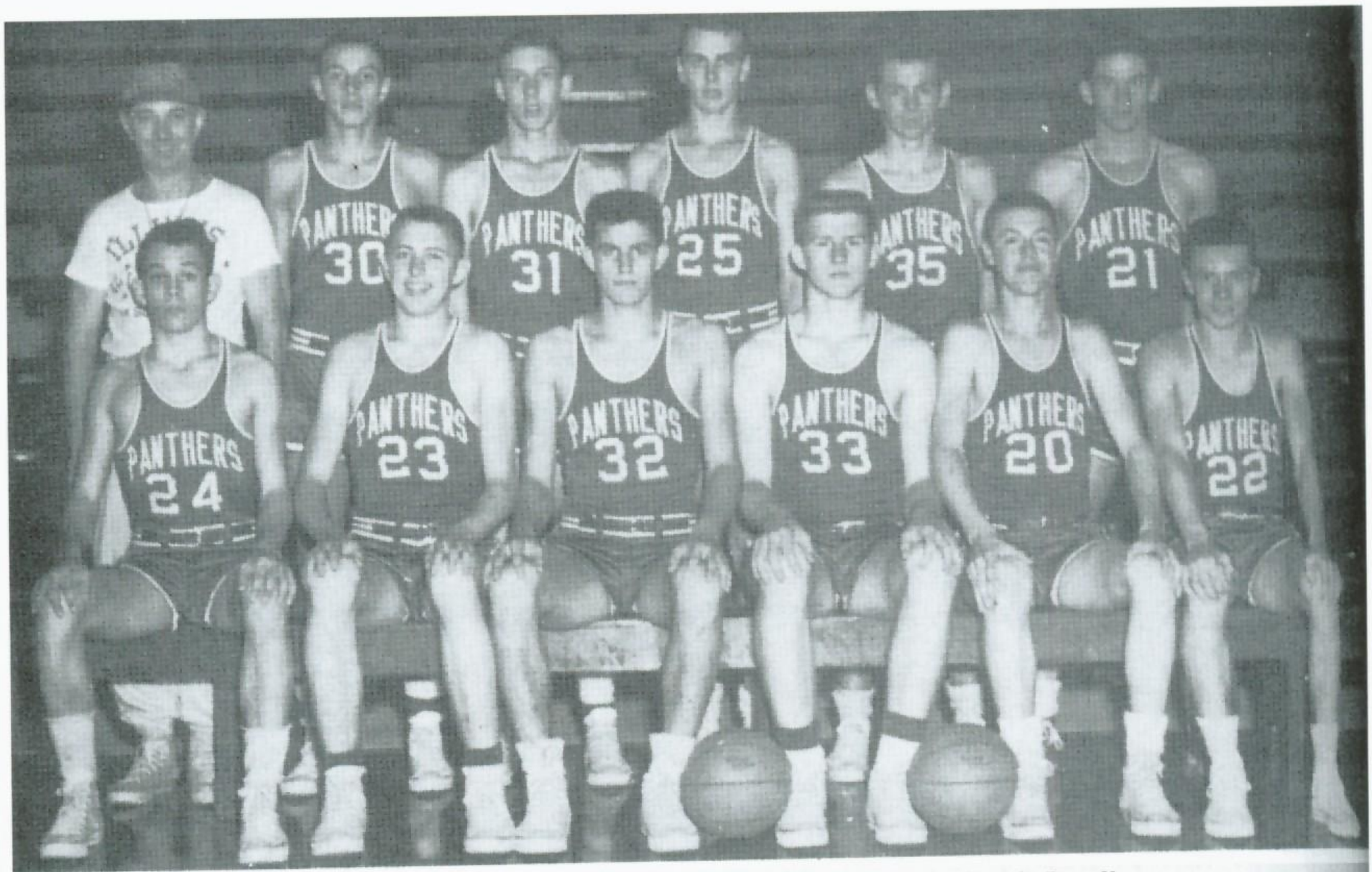
Basketball season tickets go on sale Nov. 10. Drawing for seats held Nov. 15. Thomas sings song of blues about Cat cage prospects...usually moans loudest when he has the least to complain about. Cats unimpressive in victory little Nashville.

Trico cagers might give bigger five bad time this year. Panthers wipe out early lead, ease by Herrin Tigers 50-41. Would Harry James have been successful at basketball? Or: Is Warrn Talley another hardwood find like Tom Millikin? Panthers outsmart rangy Sparta five 51-43; second SEC win. Thomasmen roll over Johnston City 71 to 49. Cats ease by Terriers 43-36, lose to Frankfort 60 to 55 in week end tilts. Panthers nose out Vandalia 62-60 in Centralia Tourney overtime, Memphis sings blues 63-28 Saturday as Panthers defeat the Messick High School Panthers.

Panthers trim Murphy, fourth Conference win without a loss. Cats blast Bees, 49-34 to take loop lead. Carbondale, Benton week end victims of high scoring Cats. Panthers win third at Benton's annual cage festival. P'ville scalps Indians 59-24.

Free throws boost Sparta over Cats 49-42. Cats trim Murphy 41-31 to win conference title Tuesday, rally to sting Bees 47-43 Friday. Cats defeat Orphans 50-43; rugged battle. Panthers are Regional Champs again; Chester bows 50-43; Cats trample Orphans 67-44 at Mt. Vernon Sectional Tourney. Mt. Vernon bows 53-51 in thriller. Freeport captures State Title; Panthers bow to Moline in opener.

1952



Seated, left to right: John Carson, Warren Tally, Gene Place, Jack Davis, Ronnie Pursell, Bob Quillman, Duster Thomas, John Golliher, Leo Hill, Bob Morganthaler, Don Craig, Verlan Caupert.

Public to inspect modern new bulding, at least 5,000 expected to new gym for open house. Panthers dedicate gym with cage opener Nov. 20 against Nashville Hornets. Cats open new gym and season with 46-35 triumph. Panthers roll to twin victory 63-29 over Belleville and 45-36 over A-J. Cats skin Johnston City; Pursell tags enemy for 21 points. Panthers win twin cage bill over week end, beat C'dale 75 to 62 Friday and W. Frankfort 82-51 Saturday; Place, Talley, and Pursell combine for 113 points in two games. Messick High School, Memphis, 9th straight victim of Cats 76-30. Cats 6th in AP State Poll. Panthers suffer first loss of season to Marion.

Cats move up to 8th in UP rating, but Thomas "don't care". Cats clobber Murphy 70-38; host Bees here Friday nite. Cats steamroller Chester 83-53. Cats win in Salem Invitational roll over Vandalia 74-48. Don Margenthaler still smashing scoring records at PJHS, rips the nets for 42 points in Kitten's 54-22 rout of Sparta last week. Cats keep SEC slate clean with 50-41 victory over bulldogs. Murphy downed by sick-ridden Cats 56-39. Cats wrap up SEC Crown at Chester with 55-48 win.

Influenza epidemic closes high school; 113 absent. Principal Roland Keene announces Panther's game with DuQuoin will go on as scheduled. Cats blast Trico as Davis bottles up Bockhorn; Talley scores 22 points. Gene Place takes scoring honors in Conference. Cats undefeated in Conference. Cats clobber Frankfort 49-46 to move to sectional finals. Cats land in State Fete with victory over Orphans at West Frankfort Sectional. Panthers whip Roosevelt 56-44 in State opener, Rams next. Rams edge Panthers 55-51; locals foul heavy; Davis, Talley, Pursell foul out.

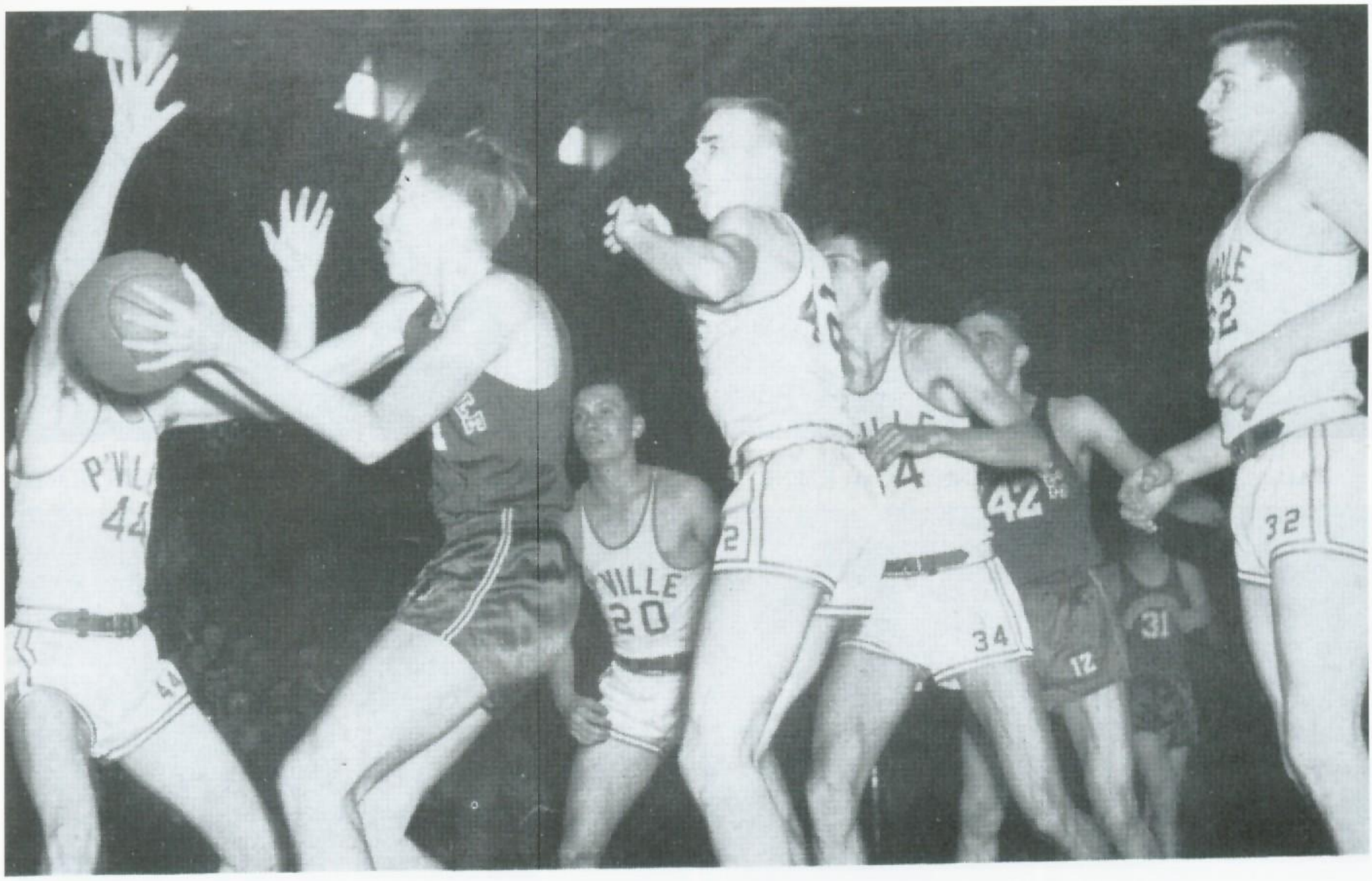
1953

PINCKNEYVILLE PANTHERS
Third in State Tournament in
1953

Thomas says '52-'53 Panthers twenty points better than last year's team. Cats dump A-J 58-23 in SEC opener; shake off Herrin 54-42. Trico, not Pinckneyville, gets Regional Tourney after 17 years here. Thomas will explain, exhibit new rules to fans next year. In last Saturday's game between Cats and Sparta Gene Place took the tip off, crossed the center line then dribbled back over it. As a result, many people are suffering sore ears from the screaming of fans. Sparta good, Cats better, 51-43. Cats draw Litchfield in first round of Centralia Tournament. Terriers don't read news, dress down Cats 49-44 Friday night. Unhappy Cats sack Edwardsville 60-56. Coach Bill Whitlock's junior high five slaughter Sesser 83-14. Cats toy with A-J for 46-27 win; purr through Johnston City 65-31.

Panther's shatter Mark Peterman's crystall ball, beat Centralia in their own tournament. Panther's rated 3rd in UP rating. Panthers ease thru Red Devils 55-28. Cats drop close one to Collinsville 57-59. Cats desting balky Chester 61-53. Bill Veeck, owner of the St. Louis Browns, to see Cats, Terriers fit Friday nite. Panthers run Carbondale back to a cold kennel with 66-45 reminder. Cats whistle stop DuQuoin 79-42. Panthers smash Centralia in Salem Final 63-42. Sparta close shaves Panthers 42-46. Junior Panthers end schedule with 16 wins, no losses.

Two of state's greatest clash in Duster Thomas Fieldhouse Saturday nite when



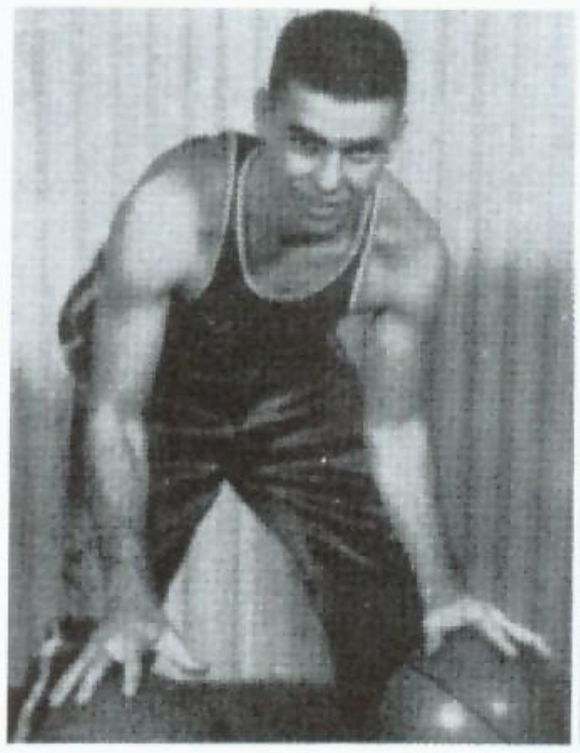
Panthers Victorious Over Jacksonville in the Quarter Finals of State Tournament.

Quincy meets Panthers. Panthers 4th quarter quicksand job of Quincy makes North look up to South. Panthers "putty-cat" Chester 84-55. Cats beat Murphy 61 to 39; give Duster his 8th Conference hat. Panthers veto Springfield Senators 64-45 last Saturday.

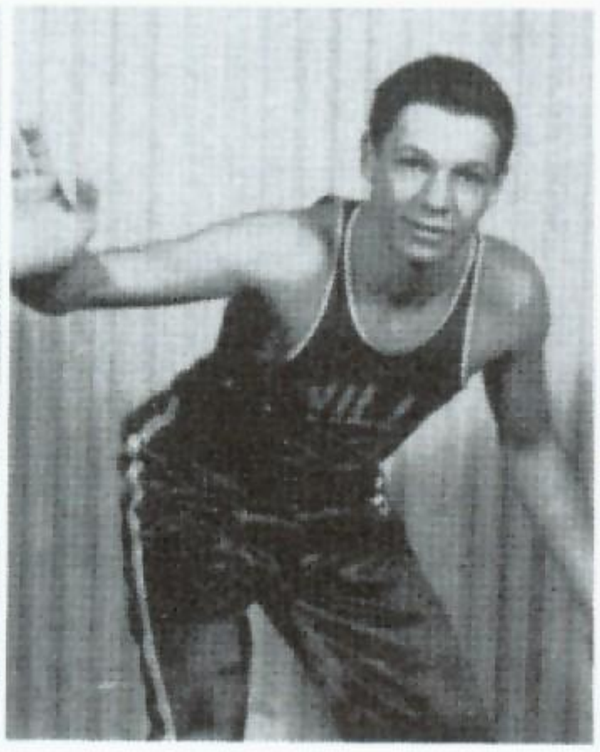
Resurgent Indians chase Cats through four quarters of hair raising 78-69 game. Panthers put fini on DePue and schedule with 70-58 win. Cats globe trot Indians out of Trico Regional with 69-26 exhibition. Chester allmost detours Panthers off road to Champaign with three and half frames tied game; Cats win 65-47.

Junior High wins "state" title at Benton; sink Mt. Vernon 59-45. Powerful Panthers brush off Sparta in Trico finals 63-42; meet Orphans in first game of Sectional. Panthers wollop Centralia out of Salem Sectional 85-63. Panthers beat DeKalb 48-42 in first game of State Tourney. PCHS Panther Block, 96 students strong, to perform at State Tourney. Panthers 3rd best in Illinois State Tournament. P'ville's Bob Quillman makes record shot of 64 feet, 9 inches (measured) as gun ends 3rd quarter.

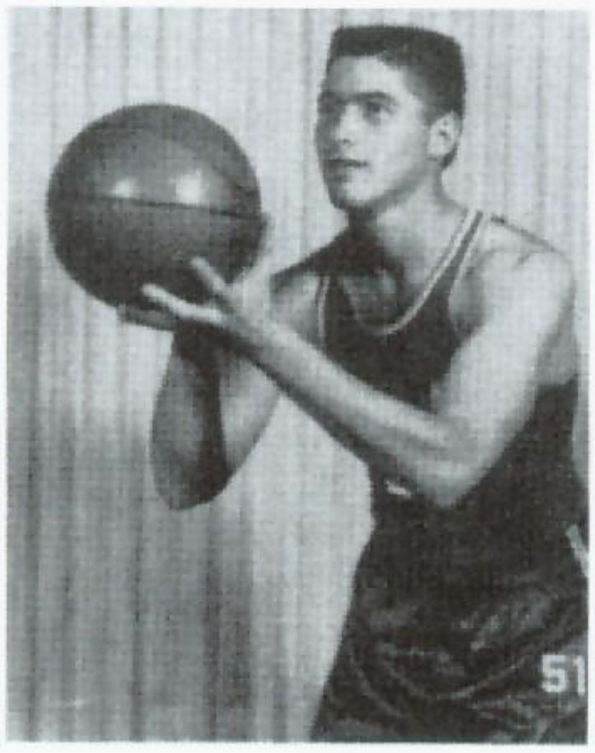
1954



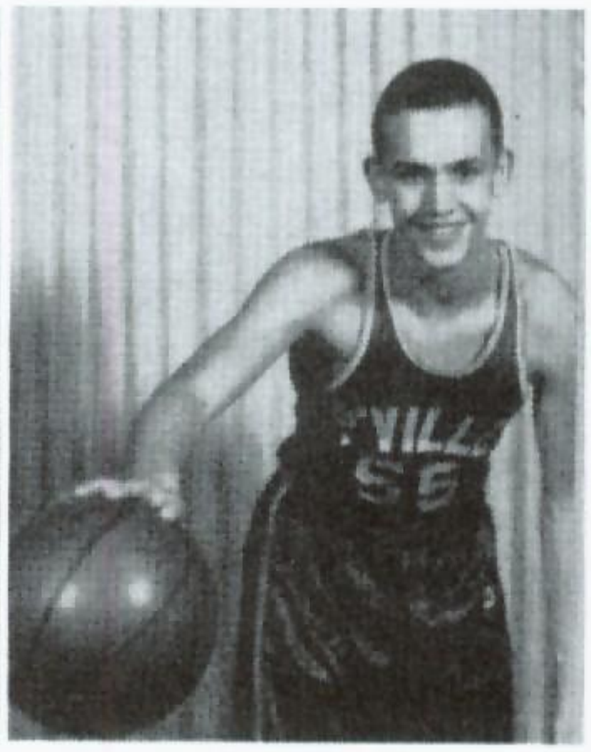
DALLAS (D) HILL



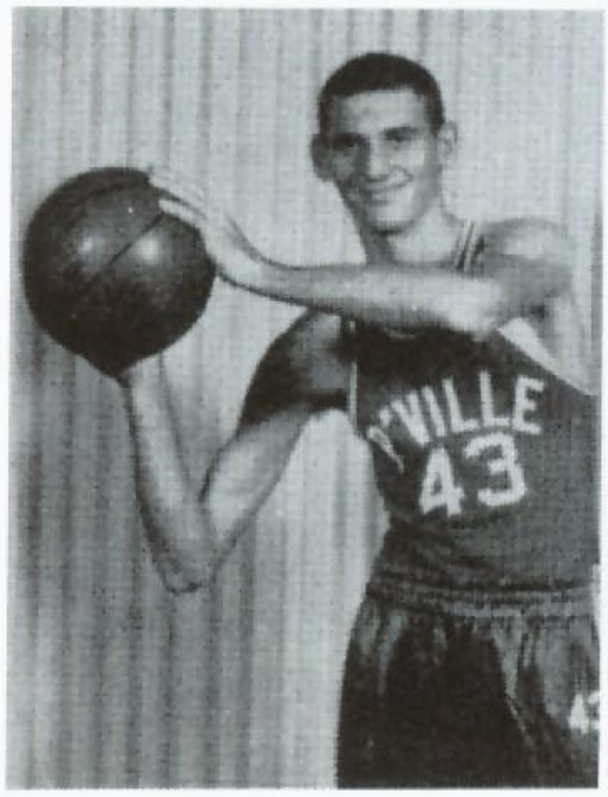
KENNY (Cat) KEENE



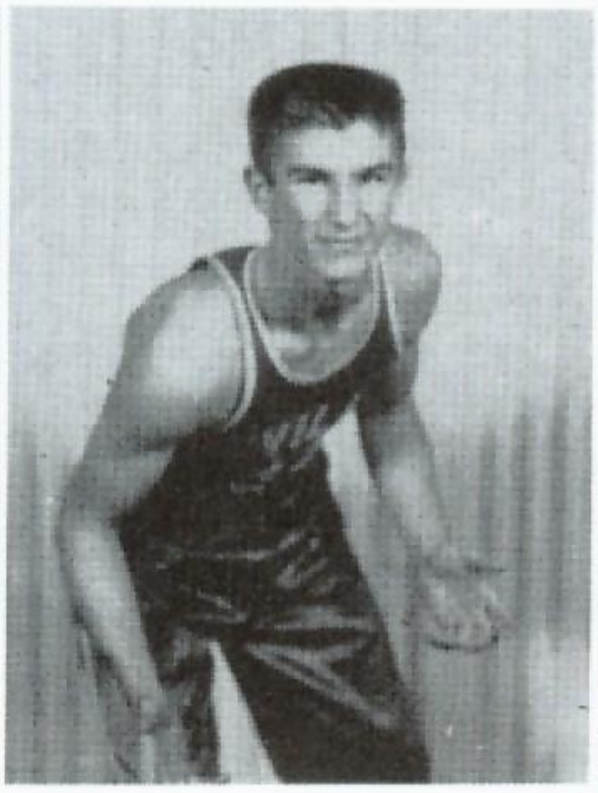
ARLEN (Ace) HILL



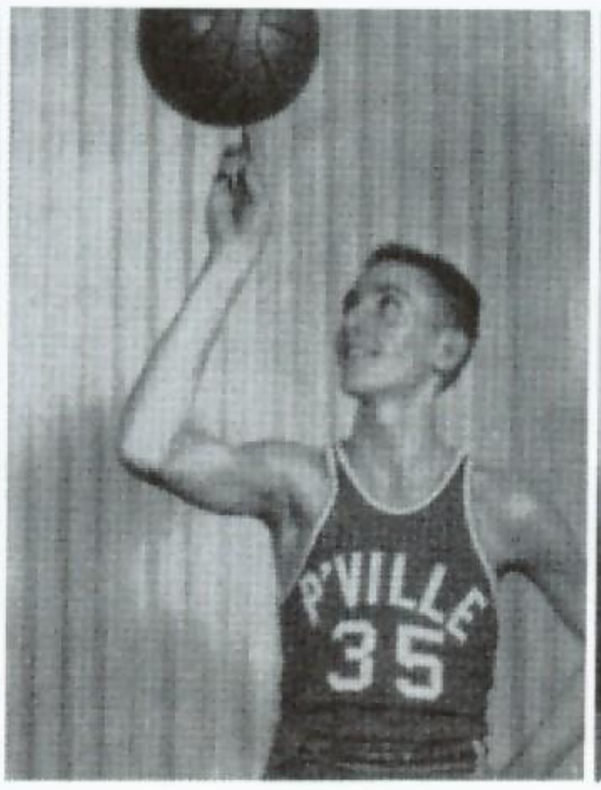
DON (Margy) MARGENTHALER



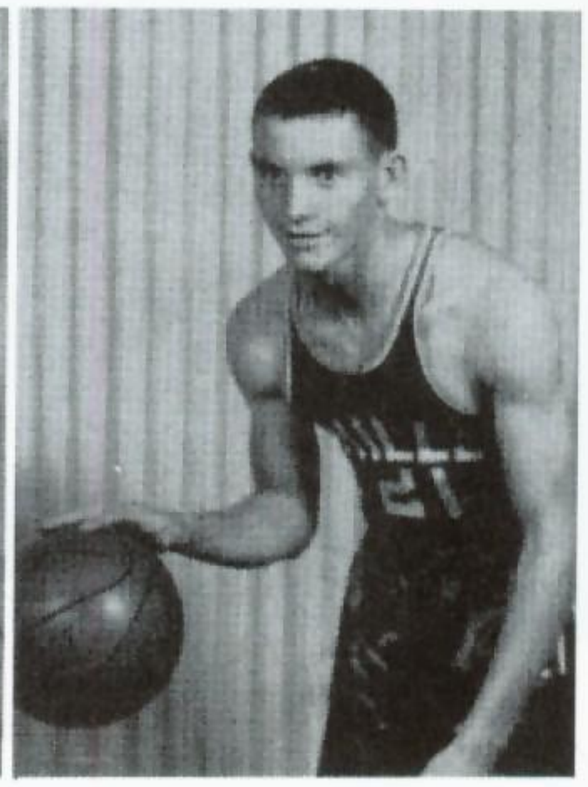
EUGENE (Ubie) PURSELL



MARION (Rush) RUSHING



BILL (Lum) EDWARDS



JIM (Laz) LAZENBY

TOD (Hosey) MASTERS

Panthers open cage season with 49-44 win over Robinson. Panthers win second SWE Conference game, defeat Sparta 57-34. Pinckneyville gets Regional Tourney. Nine Panthers see dream team Harlem Globetrotters play Toledo Mud Hens in St. Louis Sunday night. Panthers defending champions of Centralia Holiday Tournament, open against Champaign, seven of state's top fifteen teams playing.

Pinckneyville wins from Edwardsville 40th straight home game 48-34. Panthers take lead in SWE, top Terriers 54-44. Panthers notch win number seven at Johnston City; 59-49. Panthers beat Litchfield in Centralia semi-finals by 59-47 score. Vandalia first foe of Panthers in Salem Tourney. Cats bounce back after loss to Orphans beat Collinsville Kahoks 69-43. Panthers win fourth conference victory beat Chester 63-55. Panthers win 5th SWE Conference game,

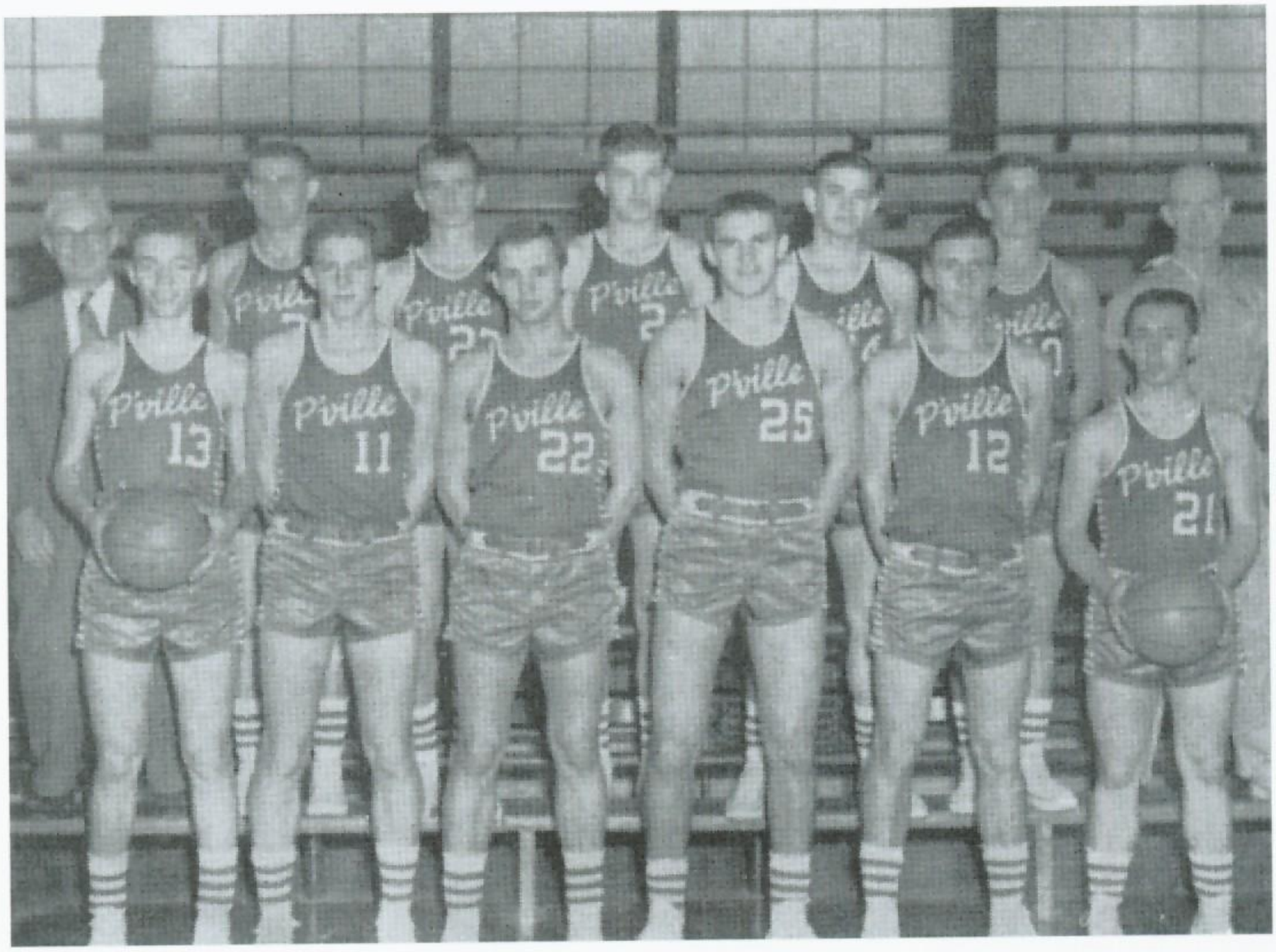
take Terriers 60-46. Panthers score 44th straight home court victory, defeat DuQuoin 57-46. Panthers got no "edge" breaking record, referees put finger on Cats more at home than away. Panthers win first outing at Salem; veto Vandalia 55-42.

Cats even score, defeat Orphans 70-61, annex Salem Tourney. Panthers win 7th SWE Conference game spill Sparta 62-43. Panthers win two; Chester and Canton 20th, 21st victims. P'ville with 9th SWE game at Murphy 53-36. Panthers win 10th SWE game defeat Anna 63-31. Cats bow to 3rd rated Quincy in thrilling photo finish 40-41. Panthers end season with 25-2 record, stop Murphy 74-41.

Kittens stop undefeated Salem in State Tourney; Danny Robinson scores 39 points in year's biggest upset. Dig that crazy team, man, the Cats win 24th jam at DuQuoin 81-52. Simpliciity, speed key to ticket sales for Regional Tournament. Panthers advance in Regional pla to second round defeating Red Bud 56-48. Panthers advance to Regional finale spilling Sparta Bulldogs 62-40. Panthers go to Sectional Finals, beat Benton 53-35. Cats win 4th straight Sectional, beat Centralia 67-61.

Panthers to State for fourth year in row. 500 people see Panthers off to State Tournament. 164 PCHS students sign up to attend State. Panthers survive first round of State Tournament, defeat Springfield 43-37. Cats set new record of 50 straight home game wins. Panther Eugene Pursell wins St. Louis radio station KXOK's Player of the Week Award, reported 39,002 votes were cast from Southern Illinois. Panthers won six trophies in '53, have five this year and now gunning for "Big One". Panthers win 3rd in State Tourney.

1956



Front row, left to right: Tod Masters, John Daffron, Don Margenthaler, Alex Singer, Roger Thomas, Tommy Decker. Back row: Coach "Duster" Thomas, Jim Kiehna, Maurice Rushing, Max Ahlers, Allan Brown, Richard Frassato and Assistant Coach Wib Ragland.

Duster and four lonesome basketball players start practice, eleven of first squad out for football. Panthers assigned playing numbers for '55-'56 season. Basketball schedules available. Ticket drawing next Tuesday. Panthers open season at Sparta Friday night. PCHS gym to be dedicated to "Duster" Friday Dec. 9th. Census shows loss of P'ville population. Cats wollop Sparta. Saints and Demons gear up for 6th consecutive Conference Championship. (Demons are geared to go in periodically and rush as hard as they can for about four minutes, then come out for a rest. The first team is the Saints, the second team is the Demons).

Cats level Edwardsville, take C'dale in stride nite before. Polio vaccine available for individual shots for P'ville youth. Panthers rated Number One in State by UP and AP. Johnston City number four in Cats wake 53-63. Adults, teenagers want Teen-Town. Cats take Centralia Holiday Tournament.

Chester stall boomerangs as Cats cage them. Herrin evens score with Cats 51-50. Youth center to open Feb. 1st. Panthers take Salem Invitational Tournament, in five years Cats capture first three times. Pincks blast Salem out of Salem finals with 70-46 charge. Cats nail Centralia 81-57 in Salem semi-finals.

1957

The Panther
Five

From left to right: Coach "Duster" Thomas, Tommy Decker, Maurice Rushing, Alex Singer, Roger Thomas, and John Daffron.

Estimated 1,500 attend local dealer showing of new '57 Chevrolet. PCHS concessions is big business. Season ticket drawing soon. Harlem-Globetrotters in DuQuoin to play in new gym. Panthers to break seal on basketball season Friday. Panthers open season with 33-22 win over Bulldogs. Panthers blast Edwardsville for third straight, 62-43. Cats drop C'dale 66-52. Panthers torpedo W. Frankfort 64-54 there. Cats sink Hillsboro 51-28. Youth Center on skids for lack of chaperones. Panthers go north to cancel Moline, Galesburg. Panthers nipped by Collinsville in last seconds of Centralia Tourney. One loss each Pincks-Herrin to tangle here Tues. Jan 15th.; both teams lost to Collinsville. Herrin drops Pincks 45-42.

Panthers blast Carbondale 88-55. Singer sets new record; 32 points in single game. Panthers mow down Anna 60-39. Panthers rack DuQuoin 92-47; Daffron breaks scoring record with 34 points. Panthers rated 4th in State. Cats win Salem Tourney again, eliminate Effingham, Lawrenceville, and Centralia Orphans. Panthers take Sparta for second time this season, 56-44. P'ville Night honors Panthers players who played at SIU. Panthers duck Decatur 82-59. Cats rack Chester 68-26.

Ex-Panther Al (Eubie) Pursell re-writing record book at Iowa's Coe College. Pursell first Coe College player to score over 1,000 points. Polio shots for all county students. Pincks break Anna and records with 93-69 parade. (Broke home floor scoring record.

Back row, left to right: Coach Wib Ragland, Sam Lipe, John Nelson, Vallie Degenhardt, David Roach, Don Rheinecker, Bill Joiner. Front row: David Harriss, Clyde Morgenthaler, Joe Tanner, Ken Graskewicz, Charles Carson, Tommy Hawkins, Eldon Bigham.

Daffron set new single game record with 35 points. Team broke shooting percentage record with 67 percent). DUSTER RETIRES, (Feb. 20, 1957 P'ville Democrat). High school voters smash tax increase 3 to 1.

Big Muddy Canal gets engineering approval. Panthers bump Indians for second time this season. Cats end home play with win over Decatur. Panthers end schedule with 60-37 win over M'boro. The Gray Fox adds another trophy to collection; Pincks win Regional Tournament. Herrin 75-Pincks 47 in Sectional.

IV. The Challenge of Greatness

1958

Dave Roach

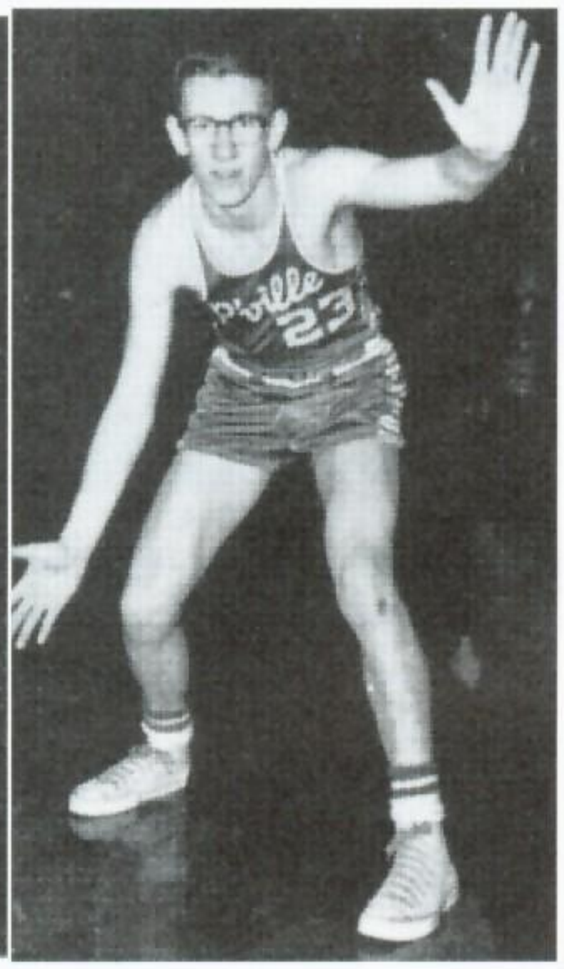
Dave Harris

Tom Hawkins

Chuck Carson

Jim Guenther

Kenny Graskewicz


Eldon Bigham

Sam Lipe

John Nelson

Don Rheinecker

Pinckneyville basketball fans draw for tickets. Coach Stanton left with little to defend three B-ball title with. Stanton names eight as possible starters against Mounds-Douglas in season opener here Saturday night. Panthers lose opener to Mounds in 50-49 last quarter shaker. Centralia takes 64-59 game from fast improving Panthers. Panthers drop 51-61 game to Edwardsville; Hawkins nets 31 points. Air pattern shows six separate twisters hit Perry County. Panthers open Conference play with 70-68 overtime win over M'boro. University High tags Panthers with 65-57 loss. Pincks stop Indians and lose to Herrin. Panthers drop two games over week end, lose to Anna, C'dale. Eubie Pursell shooting for 1,400 mark in next Coe College game.

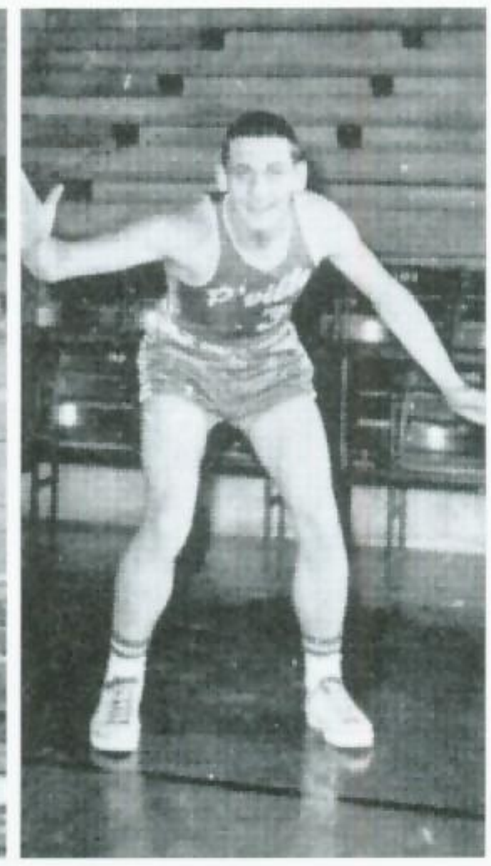
Panthers knock off Chester, DuQuoin in Conference games. Panthers upset (?) Carbondale. Cats romp over favorites in taking Trico Regional. Tournament fever grips town. Al Pursell fourth highest all time B-ball scorer of all Iowa colleges... 1,510 points.

1959

Eldon Bigham

Dave Roach

Dave Harris

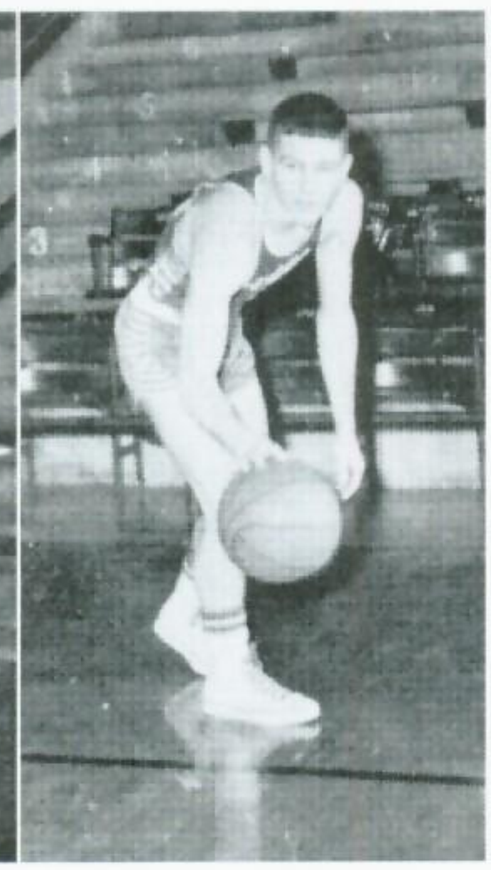

Jack Margenthaler

John Nelson

Tom Daffron

Don Rheinecker

Sam Lipe


Jim Mathenia

Ronnie Shirk

Basketball ticket drawing Tues. Nov. 18th. 19 candidates report for Panther B-ball; 12 sophomores will be pushing vets. Young Panthers push Orphans to last second in 79-75 loss Friday. SWE loaded with talent this season. Panthers give Quincy, Hillsboro lost weekend. Panthers meet Paris in 1st game of Centralia Tourney. Cats take W. Frankfort in stride 59-52. Pinckneyville gets Sectional.

Panthers muzzle Sparta 86-66. Cats rewrite book in blasting Carbondale 106-41; scored most points by a P'ville team in a varsity game, most points in one quarter, most points in one half, and most field goals in one game. Panthers drop to Benton in Centralia Tournament not nature of things. Herrin squeezes past Panthers 69-62. Cats add three more to win list. march to State.

SPORTS ILLUSTRATED

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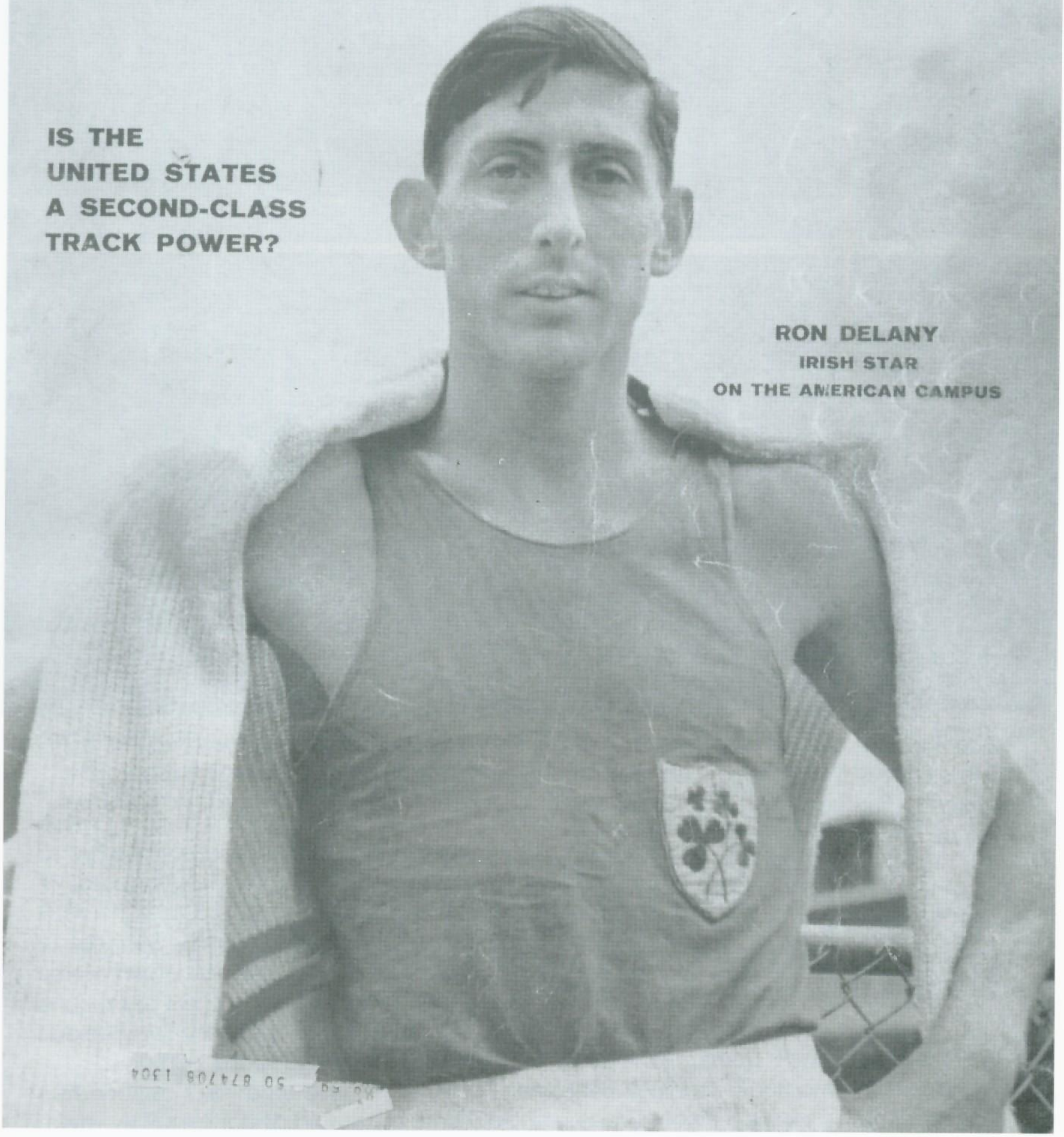
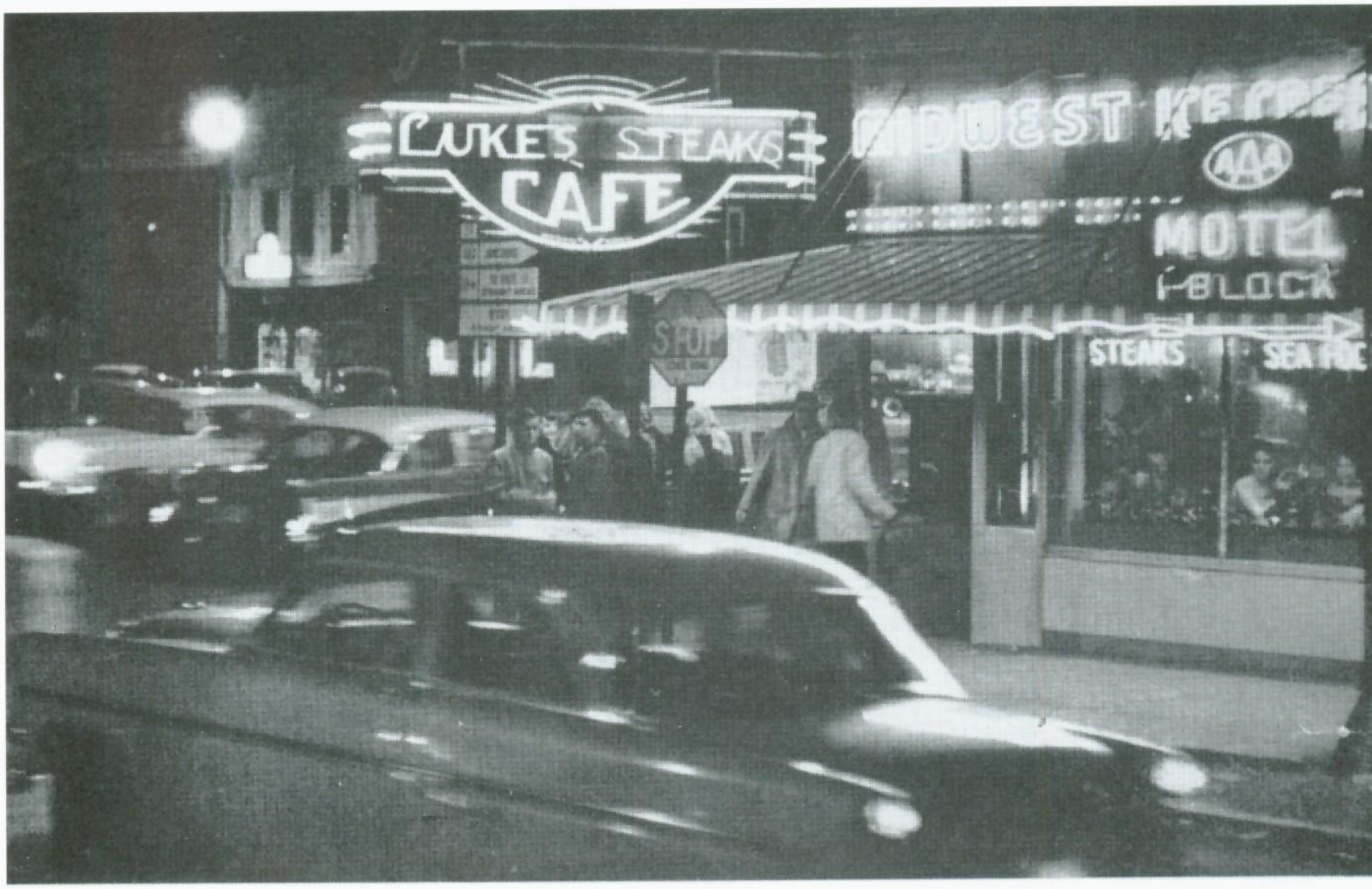


IS THE UNITED STATES A SECOND-CLASS TRACK POWER?

RON DELANY
IRISH STAR ON THE AMERICAN CAMPUS



THE POSTGAME CROWD BEGINS TO GATHER AT OLIN LUKE'S CAFE, PINCKNEYVILLE'S UNOFFICIAL BASKETBALL HEADQUARTERS

Photographs by Art Shay

RENAISSANCE IN PINCKNEYVILLE

A new young coach breaks with tradition and, confounding his critics, promises P'ville a return to the days of glory

by GERALD HOLLAND

"OF COURSE," said Olin Luke, "not everybody *likes* the fast break."

I nodded but did not reply immediately because I had a mouthful of apple crumb pie. I scraped the plate for the last of the crumbs and then took a swig of coffee.

"Mr. Luke," I said, "that was as fine a piece of apple crumb as I've ever tasted. My compliments to the pastry cook."

"I don't believe you'll get a better piece of pie in Egypt," said Mr. Luke, a slight, soft-spoken man of middle age, the proprietor of Luke's Café ("Always on the Square") which is on the square in Pinckneyville, Ill., a Perry County town 65 miles southeast of St. Louis. When Mr. Luke said Egypt he was, of course, referring to southern Illinois, which is called that because one of its principal towns is Cairo, 85 miles due south of Pinckneyville. Cairo (pronounced *care-oh* in the area) was so named because the Mississippi's habit of overflowing its banks at that point every springtime put the first settlers in mind of the River Nile.

"Mr. Luke," I said, "what is *your* feeling about the fast break?"

Mr. Luke took a sip of coffee and lit a fresh cigarette. "I go along with the times," he said.

Now this answer had considerable significance. What Mr. Luke says carries weight. He is the No. 1 basketball fan in P'ville (a town nickname deriving from the fact that Pinckneyville is too long a word to spell out in newspaper headlines and on basketball jerseys). His restaurant is buzzing with basketball talk from the time the doors open at 5:30 a.m. until they close at 1 o'clock the following morning. Mr. Luke has missed only five games of the P'ville High School Panthers in 18 years. If it hadn't been for a heart attack, he wouldn't have missed the five. He is very philosophical about the heart condition and, over the protests of his doctor,

continued

he drinks all the coffee he wants, smokes cigarettes, goes bowling and, of course, sees every basketball game. He has made one concession to his doctor: he lets Mrs. Luke do most of the work of running the café.

I swung around on the seat at the counter and looked out the window and saw people hurrying by, flapping their arms or holding gloved hands to their ears in the zero cold. It was warm and cheerful in Luke's and I was glad I had taken the advice of Mrs. Rackley, the taxicab driver. Mrs. Rackley had told me, as we drove from the Illinois Central depot to the Friendly Haven Motel, where I was stopping, that I'd learn all about the local basketball situation and get to know just about everybody in town if I did nothing more than just sit in Luke's place.

I sat staring out the window, pondering the import of what Mr. Luke had said about the fast break in basketball in light of what I had learned since I came to town. The facts were that P'ville had once been a powerhouse in Illinois high school basketball competition. This was when Merrill (Duster) Thomas was coach. He turned out consistently strong teams, sent eight of them to the state championship tournament at Champaign, won the state championship once and had a record of 17 and 7 in state tournament play when he decided to retire as coach two years ago and accept the newly created post of athletic director. Of course, Duster continues to teach his five classes in mathematics and chemistry.

As a monument to Duster Thomas' great record, a handsome new gymnasium had been built. It was financed by a special bond issue and, when it was completed, it was named Thomas Gymnasium. It was the last word in construction; there wasn't a pillar or a post to obstruct the view from any seat and it was big enough (allowing for a few lap-sitters and standees) to accommodate Pinckneyville's entire population of about 3,200 persons.

To succeed the highly successful Duster Thomas, the school board settled on a young man of 24 named Don Stanton. Don (who bears a certain resemblance to Terry Brennan) had excellent qualifications. For one thing, he was born and raised in Pinckneyville and had played under Duster Thomas. He had won an athletic scholarship at St. Louis University, where he played under the renowned Ed Hickey, and, after getting his B.S. degree, had served for a year as Coach Hickey's assistant.

Don (who was assigned to teach American history) had to start coaching from scratch. The squad he inherited had lost seven boys through graduation. That left mostly green-as-grass sophomores. The first thing Don announced was that he was abandoning Duster Thomas' more conservative style of play and was going to use the fast-breaking offense that he had learned under Hickey at St. Louis U. He told the newspapermen (including his brother Harry, who is editor of the weekly *Advocate*) that he figured it would take three years to indoctrinate the boys with this new style of play. "But," he said, "It's the kind of basketball I've got faith in."

Don said that he would hold fast to all other standards established by Duster Thomas. All basketball players would have to maintain a C average in their studies. Nonathletic students can get by with a D. Moreover, the no-dating rule for members of the squad was to be continued. Any boy who so much as took a girl to Luke's for a barbecue-on-bun would be instantly dismissed from the squad. Don agreed completely with Duster that if a boy studied hard enough to keep up a C average and took his basketball seriously enough, there was no time for romance.

(A man in Luke's Café had a story about how young love can get in the way of winning basketball. Some years back a Pinckneyville player was dating a girl off season but obediently suspended the romance for the duration. However, when the state tournament rolled around and P'ville made it, the girl's parents thought it would be nice to take the girl to Champaign to see her beau play. The first hint the player got that his girl was up in the stands came when he happened to look up and see her laughing and giggling and letting a perfect stranger—to the player, that is—feed her popcorn. "The player," said the man in Luke's, "couldn't hit the red side of a green barn after that.

P'VILLE LOSING: Geniese Stanton, 7, a niece of the coach, holds hands to her face in horror, and Jane Ann Carleton of senior class makes a clenched-fist plea for a rally.

I firmly believe the incident cost us a state championship.")

Even with inexperienced material, the Panthers of last season managed to win more games than they lost. This year the young squad (of the starters, Jack Margenthaler is 15, Dave Roach, Ed Bigham and John Nelson are 16, and the one senior, Dave Harris, is 17) began to show the effects of Don Stanton's coaching. He soon had them molded into a smoothly working combination that was acknowledged to be a cinch to win the Southwest Egyptian Conference. When Referee Joe Franks saw them play in the Centralia Invitational Tournament, he made the flat statement to the press, "There's no doubt about it. The P'ville Pincks are on the way back."

Thinking about all this, I turned back to Mr. Luke.

"Mr. Luke," I said, "I'm just wondering if another piece of apple crumb would spoil my supper."

"If you're wondering, you want it," said Mr. Luke, raising a hand to signal one of the waitresses. "Apple crumb here," he called out.

PINCKS SET A RECORD

"You were saying, Mr. Luke," I said while I was waiting for the pie, "that not everybody likes the fast break. How do you mean?"

"Well," said Mr. Luke, "take the game with University High at Carbondale Saturday night. The Panthers were really hot. That score of 106 to 41 set an alltime record for the Pincks. But a lot of people don't like that high-scoring basketball. A lot of people around here would walk out on a game like that."

The girl put the apple crumb before me and then leaned back against the pie counter to listen.

"Mr. Luke," I said when I had finished the pie, "I wish you'd check me on a few impressions I've got."

"Shoot," said Mr. Luke.

"Well," I said, "the reason I came to Pinckneyville was to see just how seriously a small town takes its basketball. Now I could have gone to Herrin or Galesburg—I believe they're most likely to battle it out for the state championship?"

Mr. Luke closed his eyes and nodded sagely.

"But," I said, "you'd naturally find people a little hysterical in towns like that right now. On the other hand, there must be hundreds of towns in Illinois where the people have given up on the team this year. In other words, in some towns there are dreams of glory, in other towns there is deep despair. As I see it, looking at the situation with the cold, objective eye of an outsider, Pinckneyville is sort of in between right now. The Panthers aren't the equal of the great teams of a few years ago, true. But they're coming fast, as Joe Franks, the referee, was saying. Now I've been watching practice every day and yesterday noon I had dinner with Duster Thomas, Don Stanton and Wib Ragland [the assistant coach] at the high school cafeteria. Incidentally, I don't see how the school can put out such a fine meal for 30¢. But anyway, I was told that Don Stanton will lose only one man, Dave Harris, next season. So I don't see how he can help but have a winner. That's why I'd like to ask you, Mr. Luke, would you go so far as to say the basketball recession is over in Pinckneyville, the renaissance, so to speak, is on in this part of Egypt?"

P'VILLE WINNING: Jack Margenthaler (*No. 33*) outjumps his Sparta High School rival as the home team catches fire in the second half of an all-important conference game.

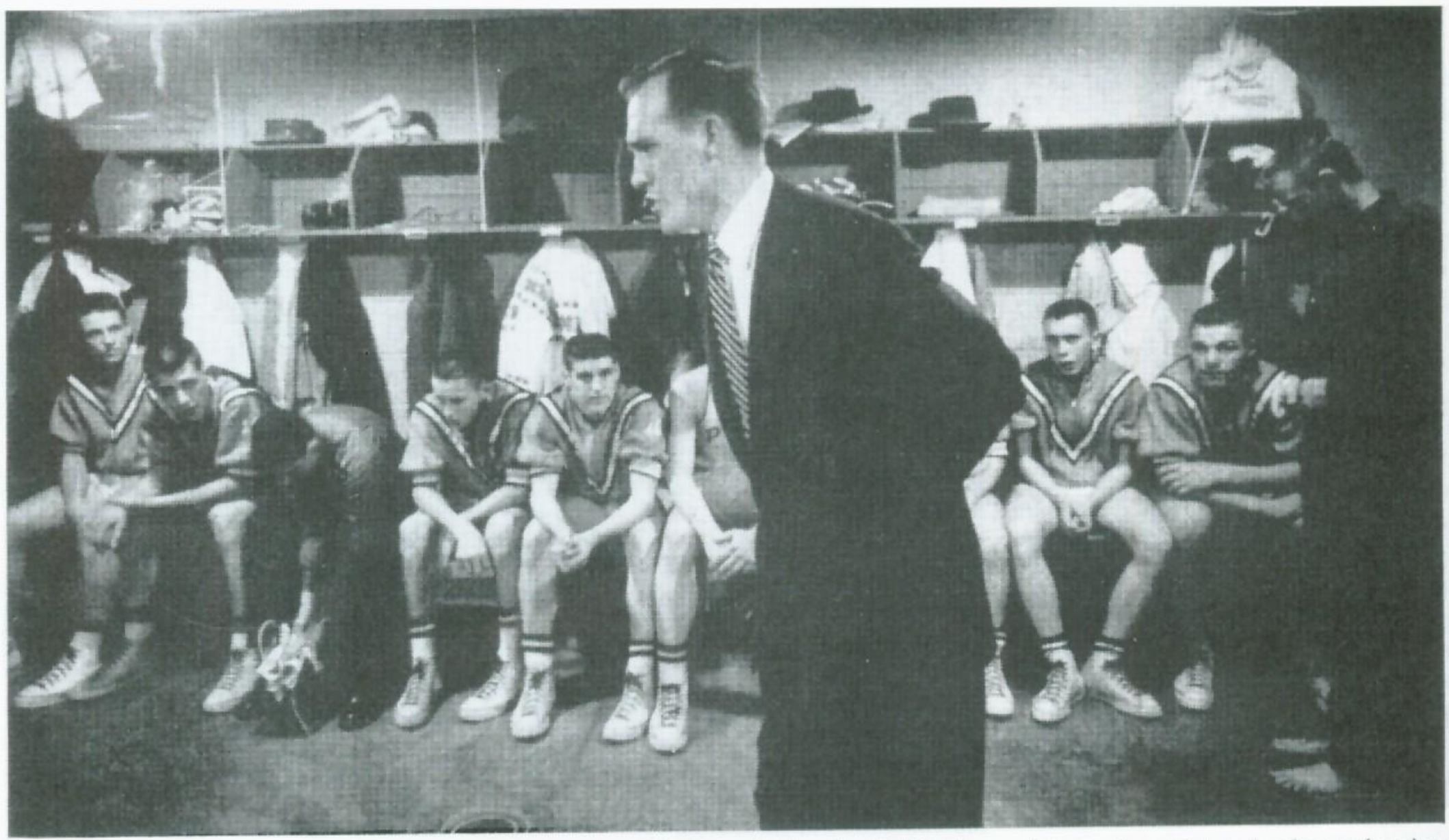
The girl behind the counter looked at me oddly. "What do you do?" she asked. "Write up sports?"

Mr. Luke made a gesture of impatience. "Go set up the booths for supper," he said. The girl shrugged her shoulders and walked away.

Mr. Luke took a deep drag on his cigarette and exhaled. "Yes, I think you could say that," he said carefully. "Personally, I'll give even money right now that the Panthers make the state tournament next year, and, at the proper odds, I'll bet they're the state champions."

I swung around in my seat and stood up.

continued on page 54



THE NEW COACH, Don Stanton, himself a former star of Pinckneyville High Panthers, strikes a classic coaching attitude as he bends slightly forward from the waist and exhorts the players to give their best against a strong and tough opposition.

PINCKNEYVILLE

continued from page 33

"What about tonight's game with Sparta?" I said.

"We'll win that," said Mr. Luke.

"If so," I said, "it just about clinches the Southwestern Egyptian title, right?"

Mr. Luke nodded.

I turned up my coat collar. "I'll see you at the game, Mr. Luke."

"See you," said Mr. Luke.

I went outside and stood on the corner, taking deep breaths in the biting cold. I looked around the square and reflected on what I now knew about Pinckneyville as a town. Its principal industry is strip coal mining, a method in which enormous shovels (big enough to swallow a five-room house in a bite) strip off the top soil and lay bare the veins of soft coal that are close to the surface throughout most of Egypt. Farming accounts for considerable income, but the fact is that P'ville could use some new industries. A phonograph-record factory located there recently and provided quite a few jobs, but the new pudding factory, frankly, has been a disappointment, jobwise. It seems about 20 people can turn out as much pudding in a month as all Egypt can eat in a year.

Even so, Pinckneyville looks prosperous. The homes are neat and well kept. Two policemen, John Siebert on the night shift and John Koerner who works days, are sufficient to maintain law and order. There is no juvenile delinquency as the big cities know it. (Of course, a couple of years ago Officer Siebert had quite an experience. Some kids lured him down to the railroad depot on a pretext while some other kids climbed to the top of the Santa Claus in the town square and placed a basketball in the giant figure's hand which was raised high in a gesture of welcome.) There are two banks, two weekly newspapers (John Shely's *Democrat* in addition to Harry Stanton's *Advocate*), half a dozen churches and that many bars, one bowling alley, a lone movie house, the Capitol, open only on weekends. It's easy to see why high school basketball is the big thing in public entertainment, the subject of the endless discussions in Luke's Café and at Reese's paper store, at the lodge halls or wherever people gather.

RUMOR OUT OF SPARTA

I got out to the gymnasium early. Mr. Luke, wearing a cap and a sports jacket, was waiting for me just inside the entrance. He motioned for me to step over in a corner of the lobby. He looked around and then spoke with the air of a conspirator.

"Fellow from Sparta dropped in the café just after you left," he said. "He claimed that the Bulldogs were going to freeze the ball tonight and try to hamstring our fast break."

I whistled. "Good lord," I exclaimed. "Do you believe that?"

"He wanted to bet me $5 neither team would score 50 points," said Mr. Luke. "I told him I'd bet $5 we won, but I wouldn't bet on the score. He backed down on that."

The gymnasium was beginning to fill up. It wasn't a sellout, but I attributed that to the cold weather and the icy highways. The boys and girls of the band filed in and took their places. Bandmaster Woodrow Maloney set up his music stand and began to leaf through the selections for the evening. Down off one of the ramps Duster Thomas, free of coaching responsibility and looking relaxed and youthful with his crew-cut gray hair, tossed a ball around with some of the grade school kids.

Mr. Luke and I found good seats. Sitting in front of us was young Dr. Gene Stotlar, the surgeon, a great Panther star of some years ago. The band struck up a number, and to me (in the happy atmosphere of people laughing and chattering in anticipation of the game) the music sounded as sweet as Guy Lombardo's.

Now the pretty girl cheerleaders pranced out and Pinckneyville gave a cheer for Sparta and Sparta gave

one for Pinckneyville. Then the cheerleaders lined up under the basket where the teams would come out and, as Pinckneyville's Panthers raced out on the floor, the band played its traditional entrance music, *When the Saints Come Marching In.* The crowd roared its welcome of both teams, and Mr. Luke and I stood up and applauded. Then, as the game was about to begin, Mr. Luke and I sat down and exchanged a meaningful glance, both of us thinking of what the Sparta man had said about the Bulldogs' plan to hold the ball.

It immediately became apparent that the Sparta man had it all wrong. The Bulldogs started out to run and shoot just like Pinckneyville and horribly, it seemed to me, drew off to an early lead. I couldn't believe my eyes in view of what I had been hearing all week. I looked accusingly at Mr. Luke. "What goes?" I demanded. Mr. Luke smiled and said, "Doesn't mean a thing. Keep your shirt on."

When the half ended with Pinckneyville trailing 34-33, I decided to go down in the dressing room. I soon found out that Don Stanton was taking the situation a lot more seriously than Mr. Luke. His coat hurled into a corner, he turned on his players, his lips curled in scorn. "Call yourself basketball players?" he snarled. "You call yourself *basketball players?* You ought to be leading by at least 10 points right now! Don't you fellows know that this game will probably decide the conference? What's the matter with you out there? This Sparta team is tough! Roach, everything depends on the way you defense Hayes [Hayes was high scorer for Sparta], and Margenthaler, I want you to hit those boards, you've got to get those rebounds if we're going to win!" So on and so forth.

I went back up in the stands and bought two Cokes, and when I got back to our seats I handed one to Mr. Luke. "Coach really ate 'em out down there," I said. "I don't know if it'll do any good. This Sparta bunch looks tough to me. That Hayes is hot as a pistol."

Mr. Luke sipped his Coke and shook his head. "Take it easy," he said. "We're only losing by a point. Lots of times this year we've been losing at the half."

"Oh?" I said.

"Sure," said Mr. Luke. "They'll get going now."

There was a lot at stake in this second half. After all, as Mr. Luke had said, a lot of people didn't like Don Stanton's fast break. Now, if Sparta was able to stop the Panthers, fast break and all, the critics would have more reason than ever to snipe at the young coach and demand a return to Duster Thomas' style of play.

PANTHERS CATCH FIRE

But Mr. Luke certainly had called it. The Panthers really caught fire as the second half began. They drew away to a big lead and soon it was apparent that they were going to win by a fat margin. As the shots kept swishing through the net one after another, I looked around to see if any of the old guard who didn't like high-scoring basketball were starting to go home. Nobody budged.

An hour later Luke's Café was a madhouse. It seemed that everybody in Pinckneyville was trying to get in. The high school athletic department (as usual) entertained the players and the cheerleaders, girls and boys sitting at opposite ends of the table in strict observance of the no-dating rule. There were cheers for the team, for Don Stanton, and then Mr. Luke got up and, pretending he was conducting an orchestra, led everybody in the Pinckneyville school song. There were cheers until everybody was hoarse.

It was near midnight when the café at last began to clear out. I sat at a table with Mr. Luke and Don Stanton and his pretty wife, June. Don had a hamburger and June had a barbecue and I took a piece of apple crumb pie. Finally, we talked ourselves out, and on the street I said goodby to the Stantons and congratulated Don again.

Back at the Friendly Haven Motel, I stopped at the office to get the key to my cabin from Everett Kelly, the proprietor.

"How did the game come out?" said Mr. Kelly.

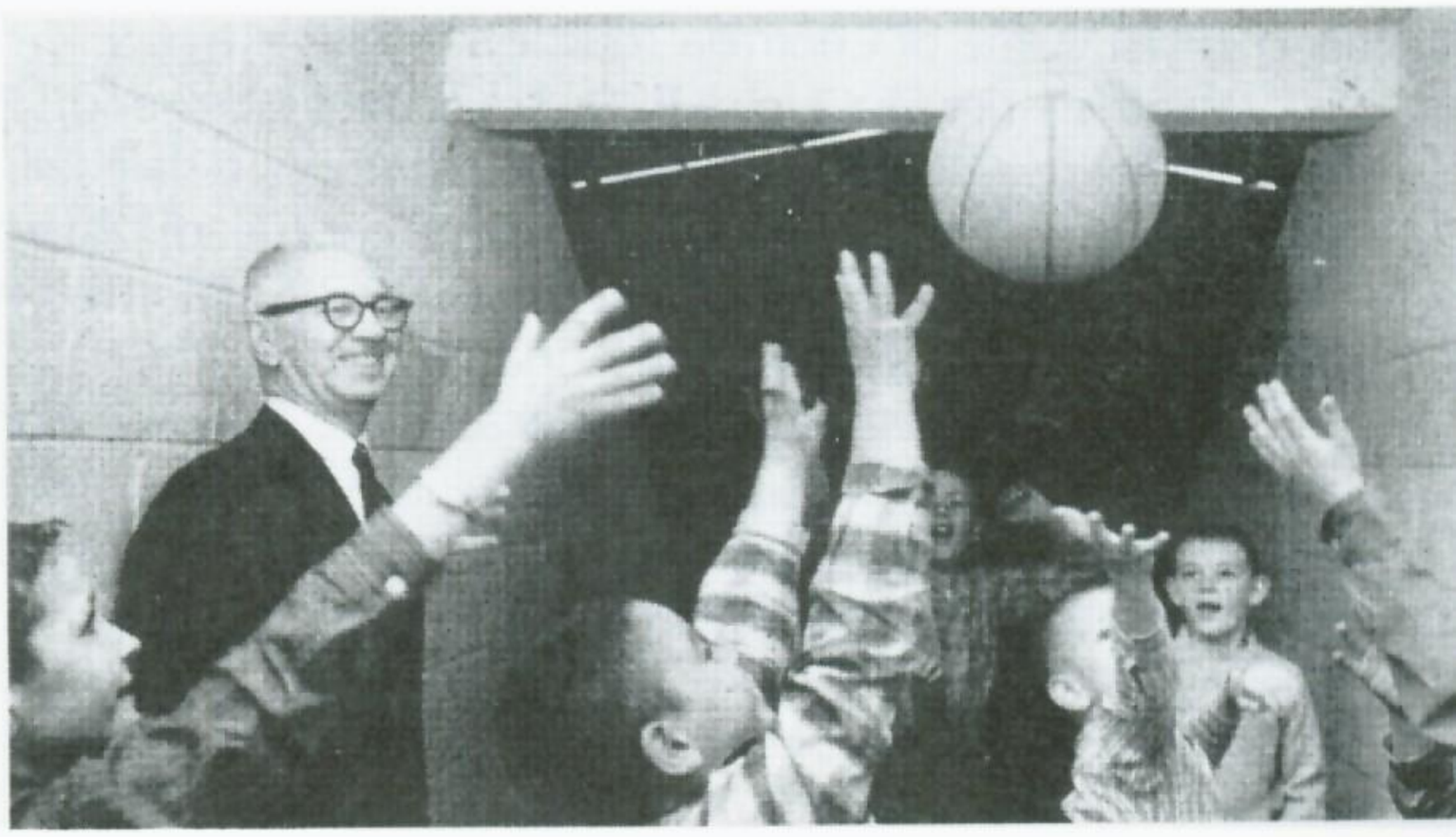
"86-66," I said, as I started out the door.

"Who won?" asked Mr. Kelly.

I turned around and told him. But I didn't realize until I got to my cabin that I had replied, "*We* did."

That's what a week's exposure to high school basketball in Pinckneyvill had done to a cold, objective observer from out of town. **END**

SMALL FRY stare wide-eyed at an awesome array of Pinckneyville's trophies.



THE EX-COACH, Merrill (Duster) Thomas, who turned out consistently strong teams over a period of almost two decades, beams as grade school youngsters display promising ball-handling technique while waiting for big game with Sparta Bulldogs to start.

1960

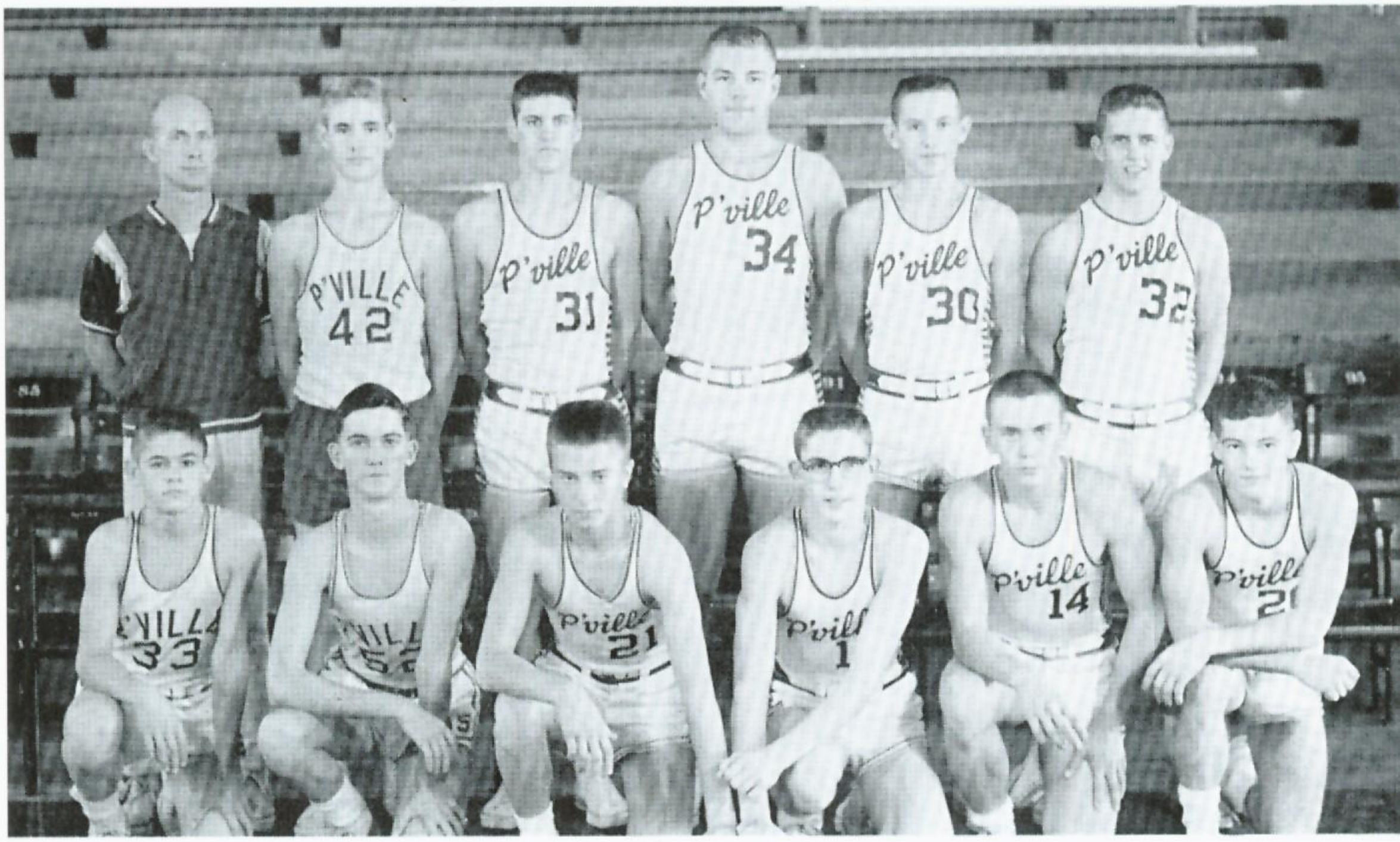
FIRST ROW: Sam Lipe, Bill Roe, Bill Lacy, Ed Bigham, Don Rheinecker, and Tom Daffron. SECOND ROW: Wib Ragland, assistant coach; Dan Fulton, Jon Nelson, Ronnie Shirk, Dave Roach, Andy Mason, Jack Margenthaler, and Don Stanton, coach.

Panthers open Nov. 22 at Centralia. Cats cuff Centralia in opener 69-60. Panthers double barrel Quincy and Hillsboro over weekend. Panthers salt Redbirds; Murphy, Springfield next. Panthers head for Centralia Tourney loaded for Tigers, Orphans, etc. Cats blast M'boro 102-37 and Springfield 87-56 over week end. Panthers meet Rock Island in first game of Centralia Tourney.

Panthers net DuQuoin, E. St. Louis over week end. Panthers win 4th Centralia Trophy. Panthers double barrel week end, Anna, C'dale fall. Well-balanced Panthers win Salem Tourney. Panthers move into Conference lead. Attempts to bottle Panther's running game proves dullsville; Chester loses 43-39. Panthers win another SEC Crown shallacking Sparta 76-52 and edging Anna 74-69.

Channel 3, (Harrisburg) to telecast State Tourney. Panthers rated Number One. Cats bid for 16th Regional Title, 10th in a row. Pinckneyville Regional winner to play in E. St. Louis Sectional, may meet Collinsville in finals. Panthers blast Rantoul 89-39 in season finale. Granite City stops Panther march to State.

JUNIOR VARSITY



FIRST ROW: Ralph Rheinecker, Jeff Stevenson, Sam Ulrich, Richard Roethe, Bill Roe, and Jim Mathenia.
SECOND ROW: Wib Ragland, coach, Gary McDonnough, Dan Fulton, Andy Mason, Billy Lacy, and Tom Daffron.

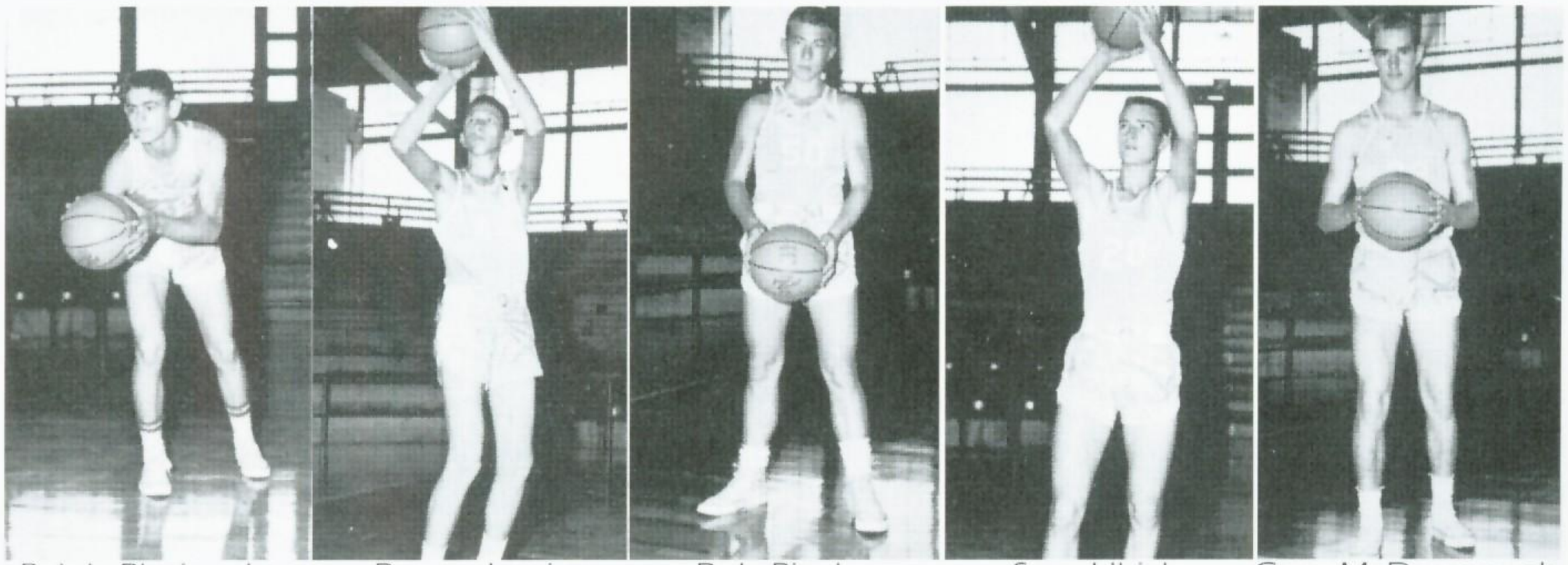
1961

Manager, kneeling: Larry Hardin. Bill Roe, Tom Daffron, Richard Roethe, Bill Lacy, Andy Mason, Danny Fulton, Jack Margenthaler, Sam Ulrich, Ralph Rheinecker.

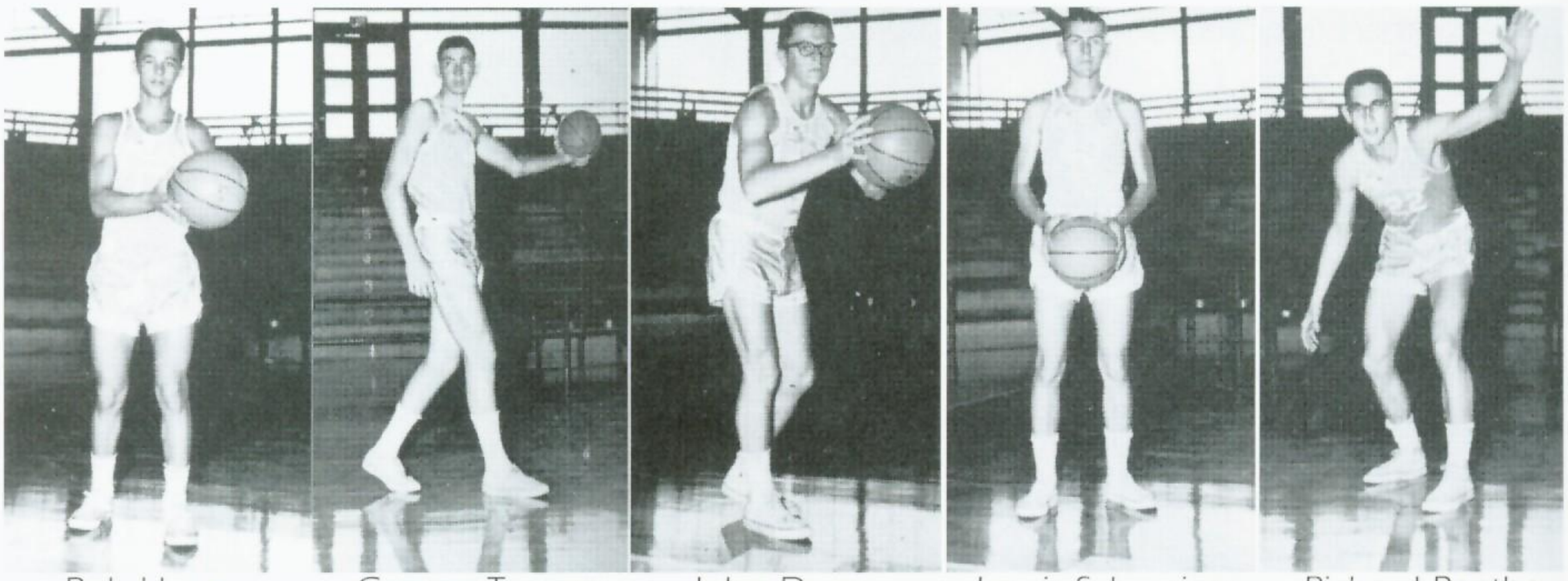
"Duster" comes out of retirement, high school All Stars of past years to play for Herrin Lion's Club. This years Panthers will be unpredictable, exciting. Underrated Panthers knock off highly rated Orphans 65-59. Pinckneyville's official population 3,085. Panthers go over 100 mark blasting Hillsboro 102-72. Panthers smash W. Frankfort 72-45 here. Cats dehorn Red Devils 79-48 in Conference game with Murphy. "B" team in for rough year. Panthers crown Springfield 79-49; defeat Sparta 69-57. Cats take DuQuoin in stride in Conference game at DuQuoin 78-56. Panthers win two over week end; take Anna 65-57, C'dale 43-36. Panthers romp over Chester 80-52.

Pincks drop Salem Tourney Crown to Centralia. Cats thump M'boro 93-59. Panthers score 204 points in week end Conference double header; blasted Chester 118-57, beat DuQuoin 76-45. Panthers-Indians both claiming Conference Championship in '43-'44. Panthers bag Sparta and Anna. Cats win Conference with 12-0 record; edge Carbondale 62-60. Panthers edge Alton by two points; game televised on KLPR Channel 11. Panthers beat Red Bud in first round of Regional. Series of small tornadoes rip thru Pinckneyville. Panthers defeat Trico and DuQuoin to win Regional Championship; Daffron scores record 40 points. Belleville drops Panthers from Sectional 77-63.

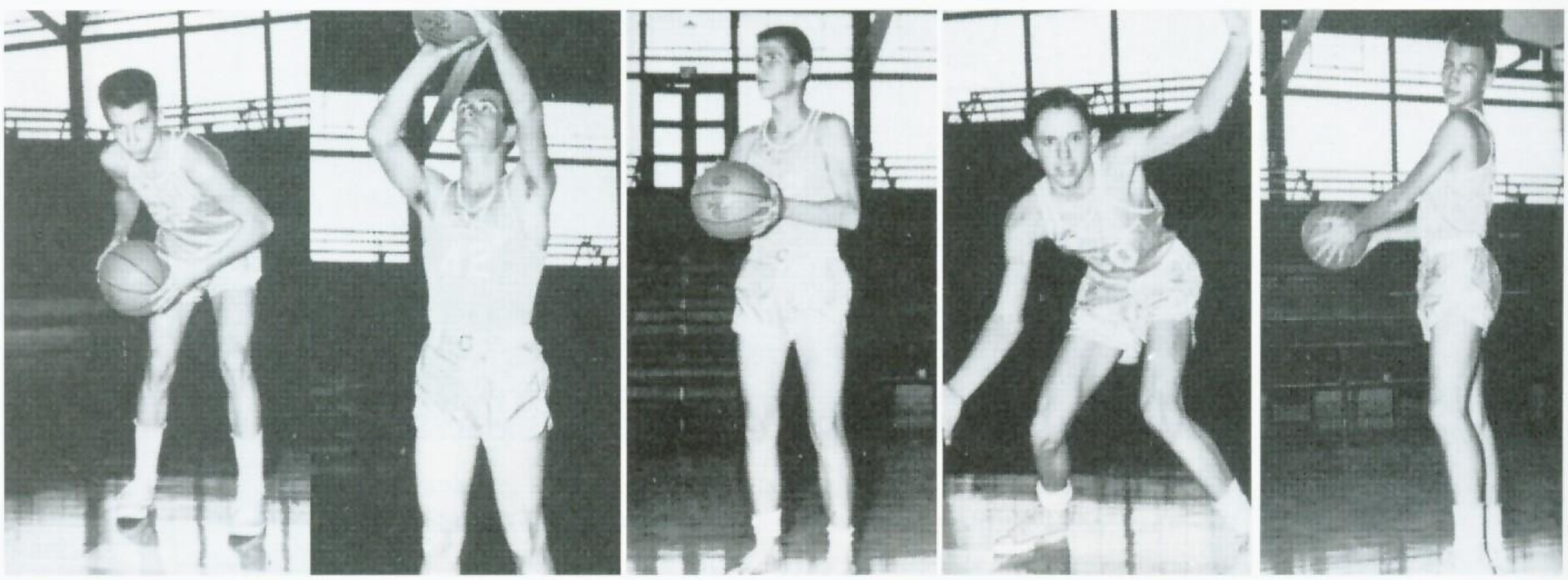
1962



Ralph Rheinecker | Benny Louis | Bob Rigdon | Sam Ulrich | Gary McDonnough



Bob Hepp | George Tanner | John Dunn | Lewis Schweizer | Richard Roethe



John Bruns | Gary Sprenger | Kent Ragland | Gary Decker | John Max Dunn

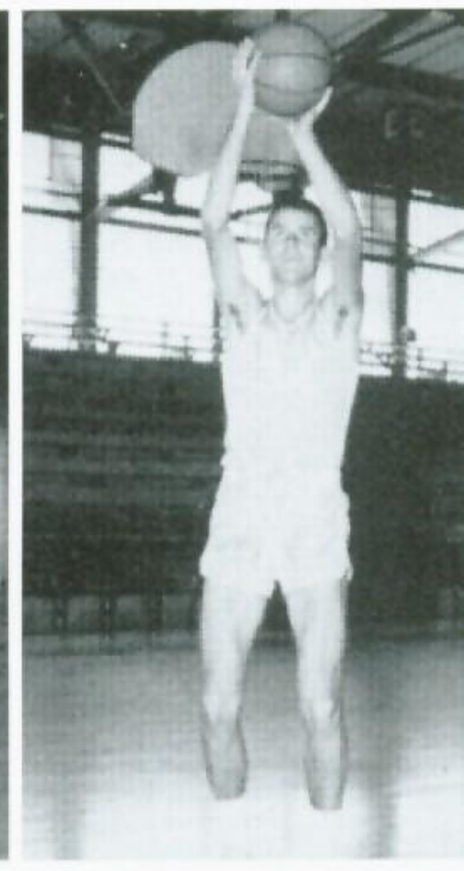
1963

Ben Louis

Gary McDonnough

Gary Sprenger

Bob Rigdon


John Marganthaler

Bob Hepp

Louis Schwiezer

Tom Rhienecker

Dale Spencer

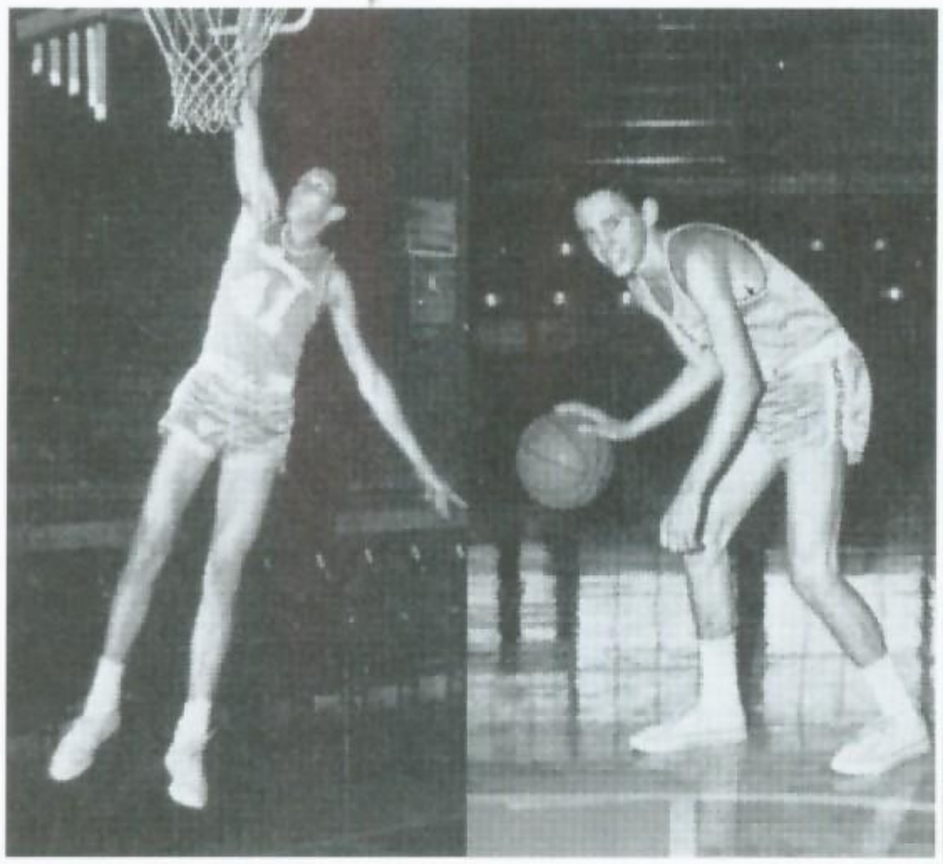
Jon Bruns

David Masters

Gary Decker

Kent Ragland

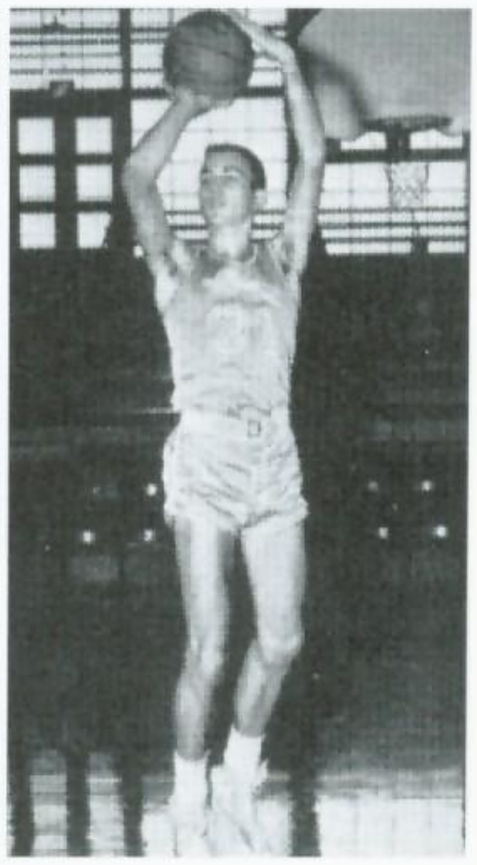
1964

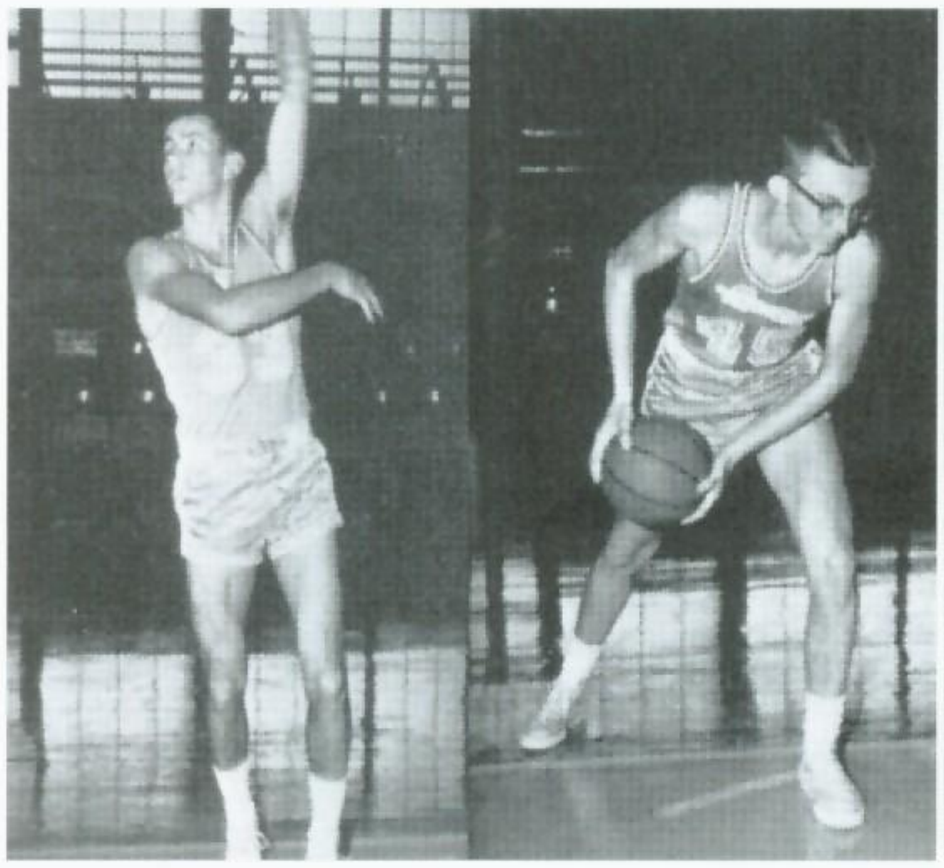

Ben Louis

Gary Decker

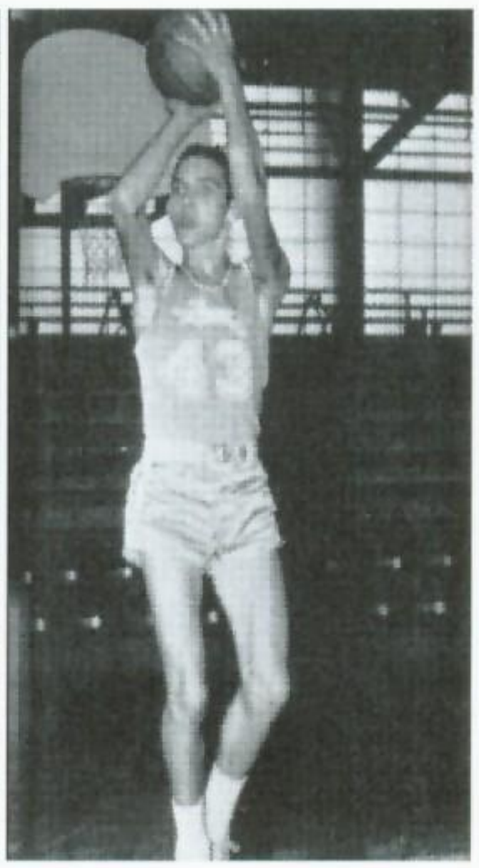
Kent Ragland

Gary Sprenger

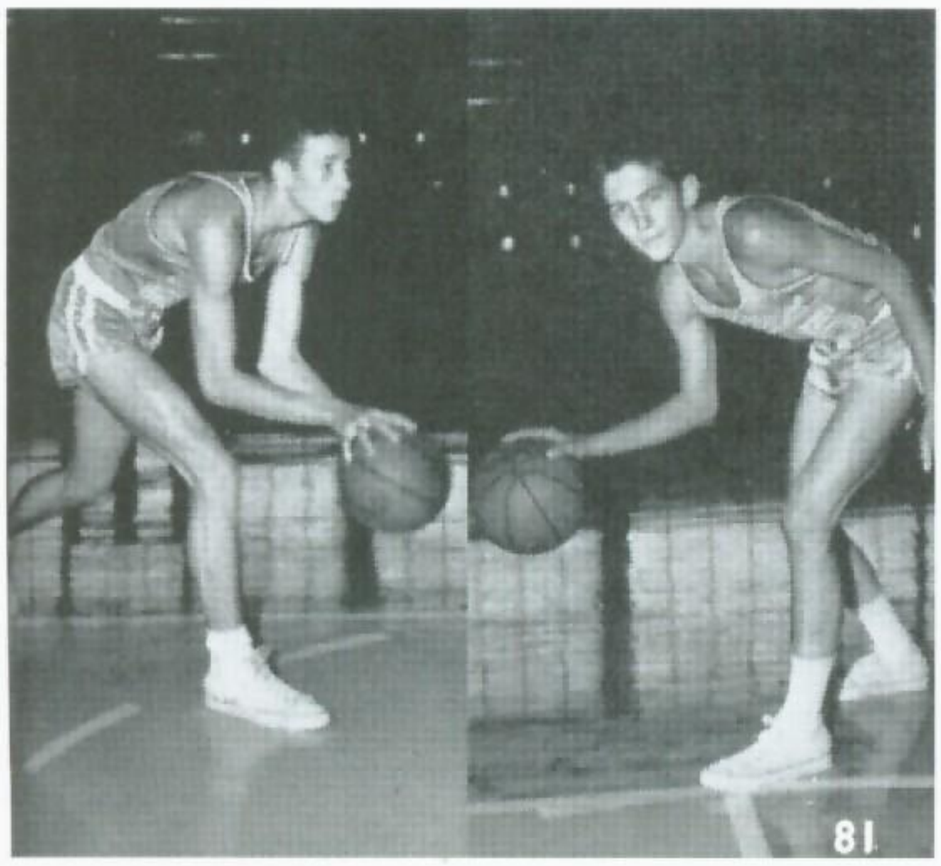

Jon Bruns


John Margenthaler Steve Dunn

Don Keller


Doug Lueker

Gary Svanda



Perry Purcell Ted Pardo

1965

Panthers avenge loss to Murphy 70-68. Texas college likes Illinois ball players; six players on U. of Houston Cougar varsity team; Jack Margenthaler, Team Captain, Larry Hardin, Team Manager, both from Pinckneyville. Ragland's freshmen win C'dale Tourney. P'ville fans amazed as Centralia fans cheer for Panthers in Salem Tourney game with Effingham.

Gruner Hardware sold after 111 years of operation. Indians beat Pincks 1st time since 1950 victory, 71-64. Chester knocks Pincks out of 2nd place with 84-81 Conference victory. PCHS students collect over $16,000 for heart research. Anna goes past Panthers 85-79. Sparta gets back at Pincks, 81-79. Freshmen beat Chester 68-57. Herrin hits Pincks 84-67. Panthers bow to Centralia 78-62. Indians pull rug on Pincks 76-63. Panthers knock Nashville out of Regional, 74-67.

Frosh-Soph Squad

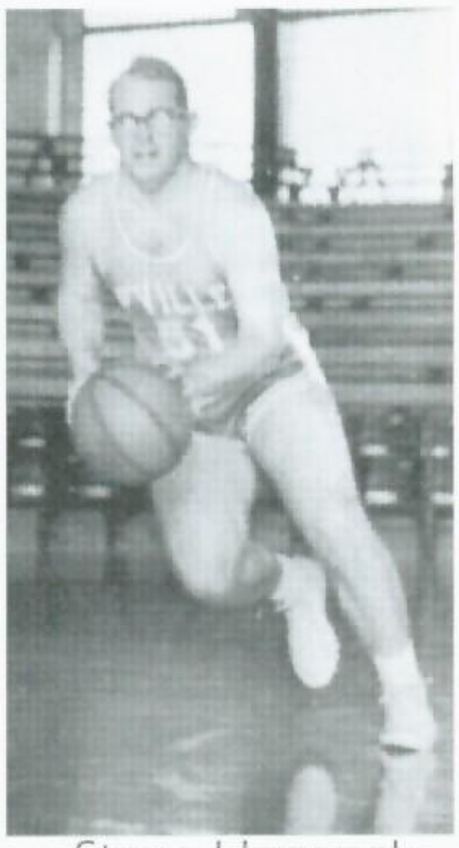
1966

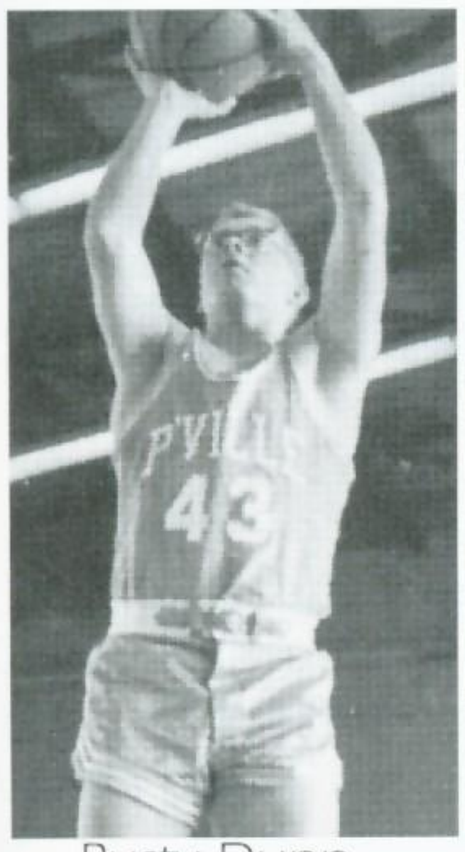
Dennis Woodside

Reggie Petty

Darrel Schweizer

Larry Woodside

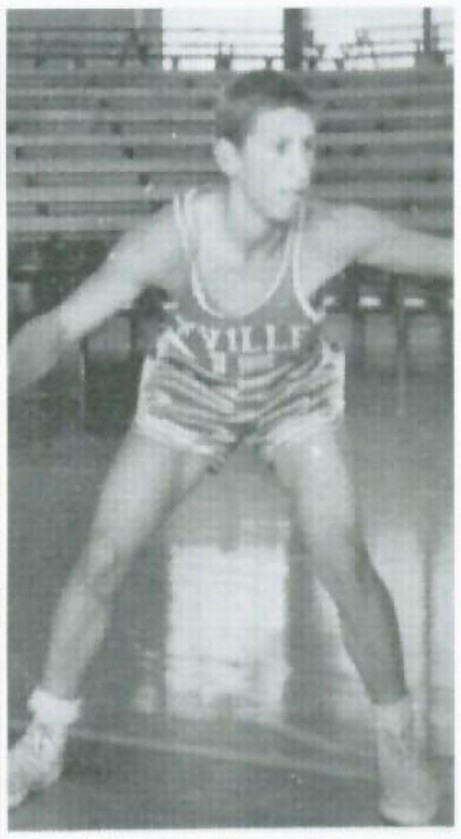

Steve Hancock


Rusty Dunn

Jon Weatherford

Larry Wilks

Joel Tolliver


Nicky Louis

Chuck Kimzey

Byron Selle

Basketball ticket drawing Nov. 23. New hospital dedicated. Panthers open "short" at Quincy Friday. PCHS Lettermen's Club hang yule decorations. Panthers lose opener 85-50. Cats upset Frankfort in overtime home opener 72-70. New scoreboards wired in PCHS gym. Panthers outshoot Chester 81-71. Cats drop Red Devils 48-40. Pincks to enter 2nd Annual Carbondale Holiday Tourney.

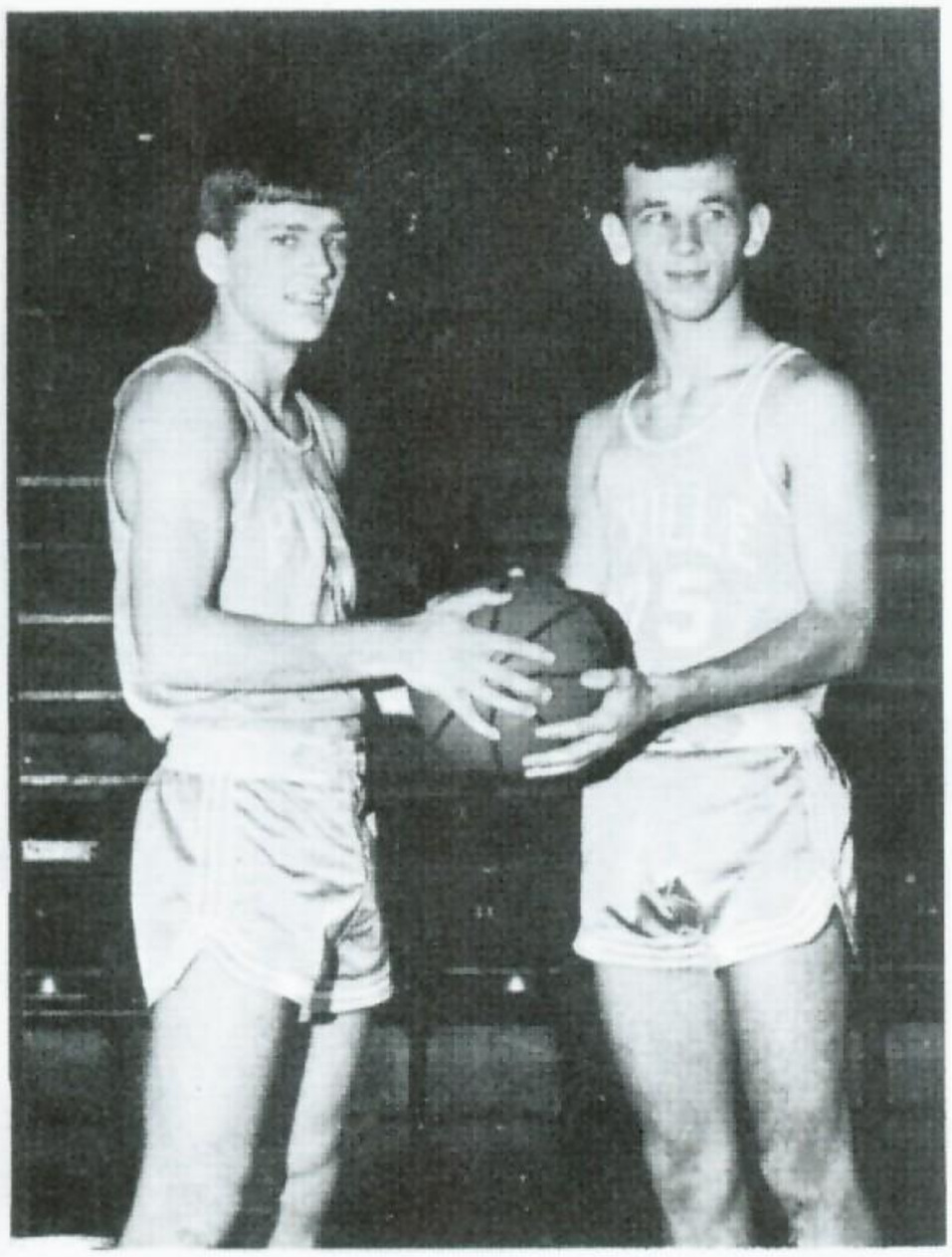
Cats win second home thriller from McLeansboro 65-64; Woodside nets 27 points. Panthers knock W. Frankfort out of C'dale Tourney, 55-46. Cats hit Sparta 61-50. Panthers lose two in Salem

Tournament. Panthers lose one to DuQuoin, win one over Chester over week end. Cats beat Sparta, lose to Anna. Panthers blast DuQuoin 61-56. Cats beat Murphy, Lose to Belleville. Panthers bow to Trico in Regional 67-58.

1967

Panthers open season against Quincy here Friday. L. Woodside, J. Tolliver Panther Co-Captains. Panther Inter-squad game tonight. '66 edition of Panthers promises upswing in B-ball fortunes. Panthers bow to W. Frankfort 84-68. Cats drop Chester 64-52. Panthers bounce M'boro 82-58. Panthers lose to McLeansboro 60-61; meet undefeated Collinsville in first game of C'dale Tourney. Cats lose Carbondale Tourney opener 79-49.

Panthers defeat Anna, lose to Nashville. New IGA foodliner opens. Panthers bow to Sparta 49-59. Panthers drop two in Salem Tournament. Cats have another one and one week end. Panthers upset Nashville, lose to Herrin. 16th telecast of IHSA Finals to be in color. DuQuoin brushes aside Panthers 90-60. Panthers lose to Mater Dei 57-75 to conclude schedule. Cats beat Nashville in Chester Regional 67-65. Sparta ends Panther's Tourney hopes.



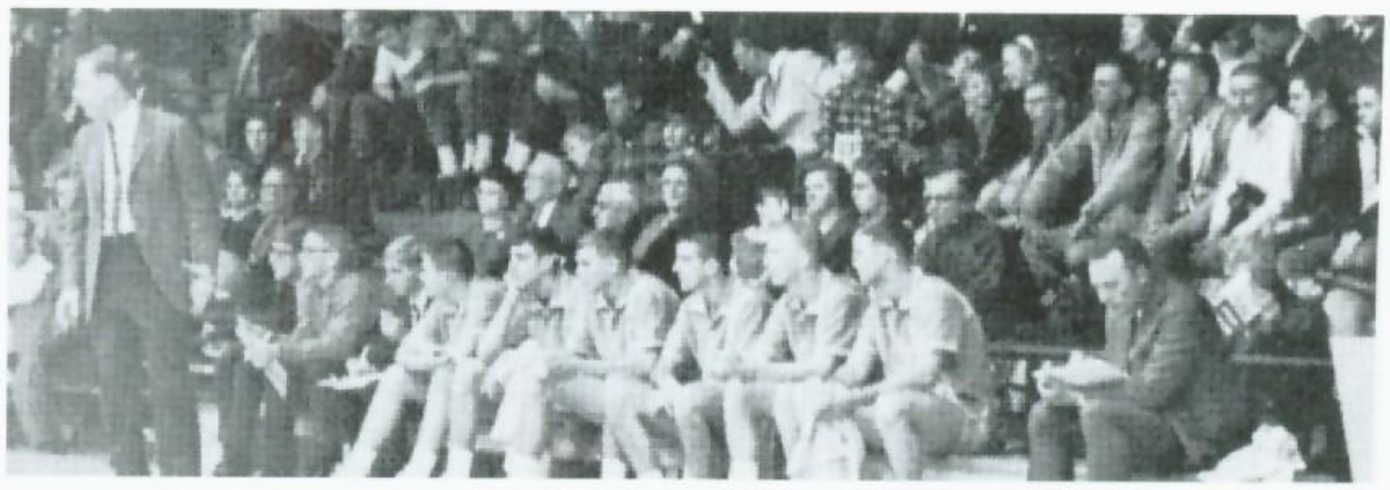
Captains Woodside and Tolliver...

...look to coaches Bigham and Peters for instructions.

1968

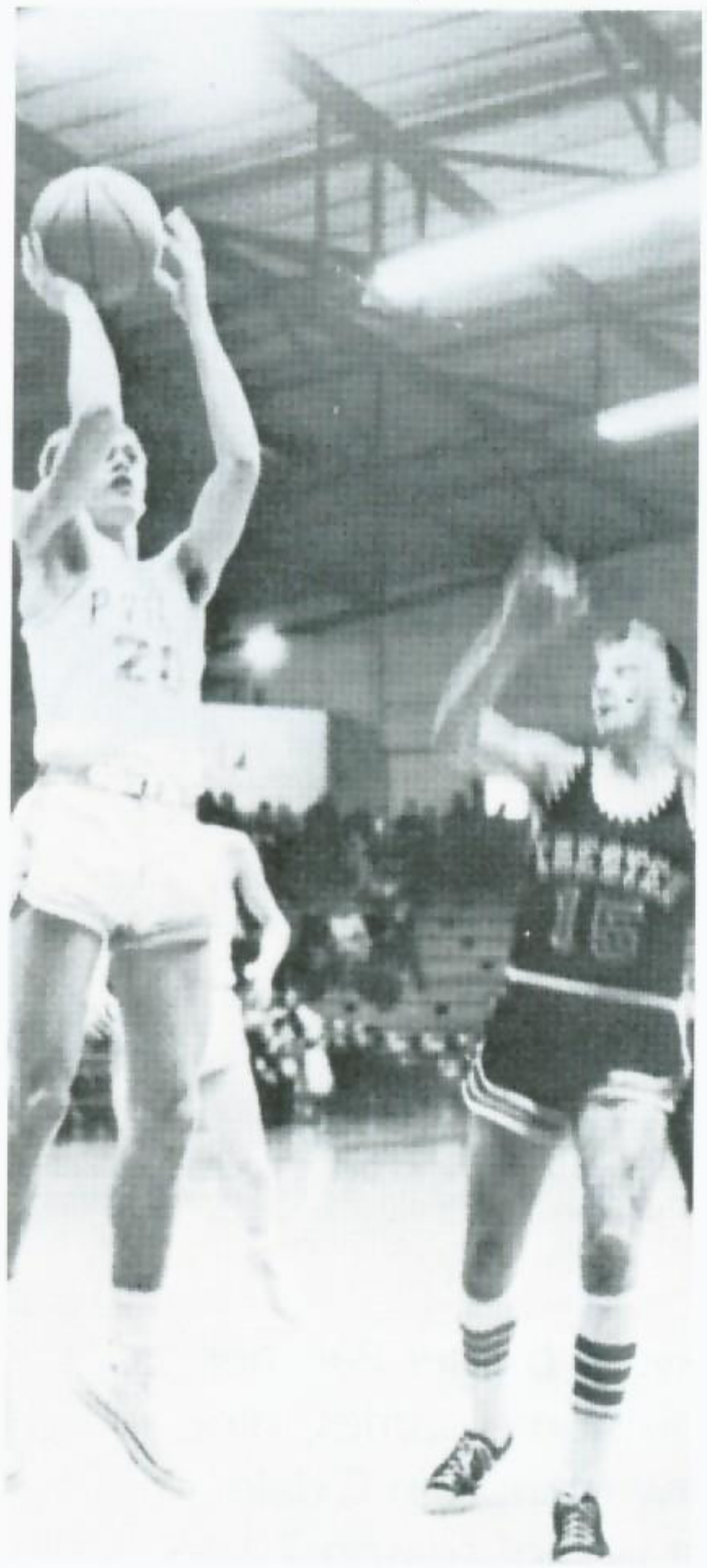
Bar of soap cost to see Panther Inter-squad game Saturday. A bigger Panther team will test Frankfort here in Friday's game. Panthers have nine home games, nine away. Panthers win double barrel from W. Frankfort, Sesser; draw Marion in C'dale Tourney first game. Panthers throttle Red Devil's for third straight win of season 70-46. Indians edge past Panthers by four at DuQuoin. Pincks equal last year's record with wo wins at Carbondale. Panthers take two week end Conference wins. Cats squash Chester with 97-61 snowjob. Panthers freeze on way to and at Sparta 60-47.

Ragland's PCHS freshmen clobbered Chester 69-48; 7-0 for season. Panthers lose big one to Sparta, humble A-J. High school faced with higher costs, growing pains, and crowds. Panthers bag Herrin and Nashville. Cats defeat Murphy 69-53. Panthers overtake Johnston City for last home game win. Cats lose Regional Final to Trico 56-61.



Everyone concentrates on the game

COACHES:
Head Coach Ed Bigham
Asst. Coach Gordon Peters

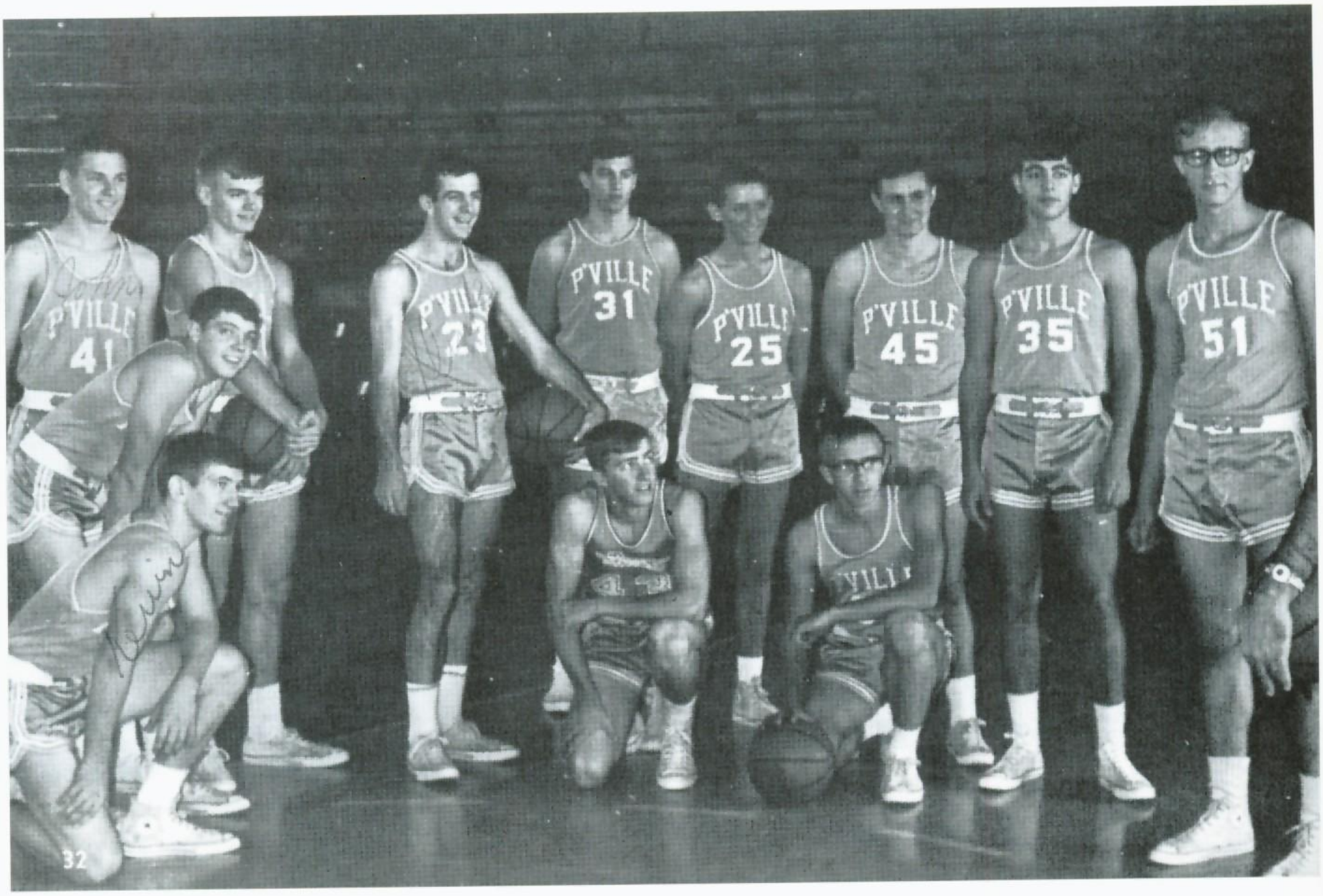


Rex for 2

Jump Byron

Up Up and away

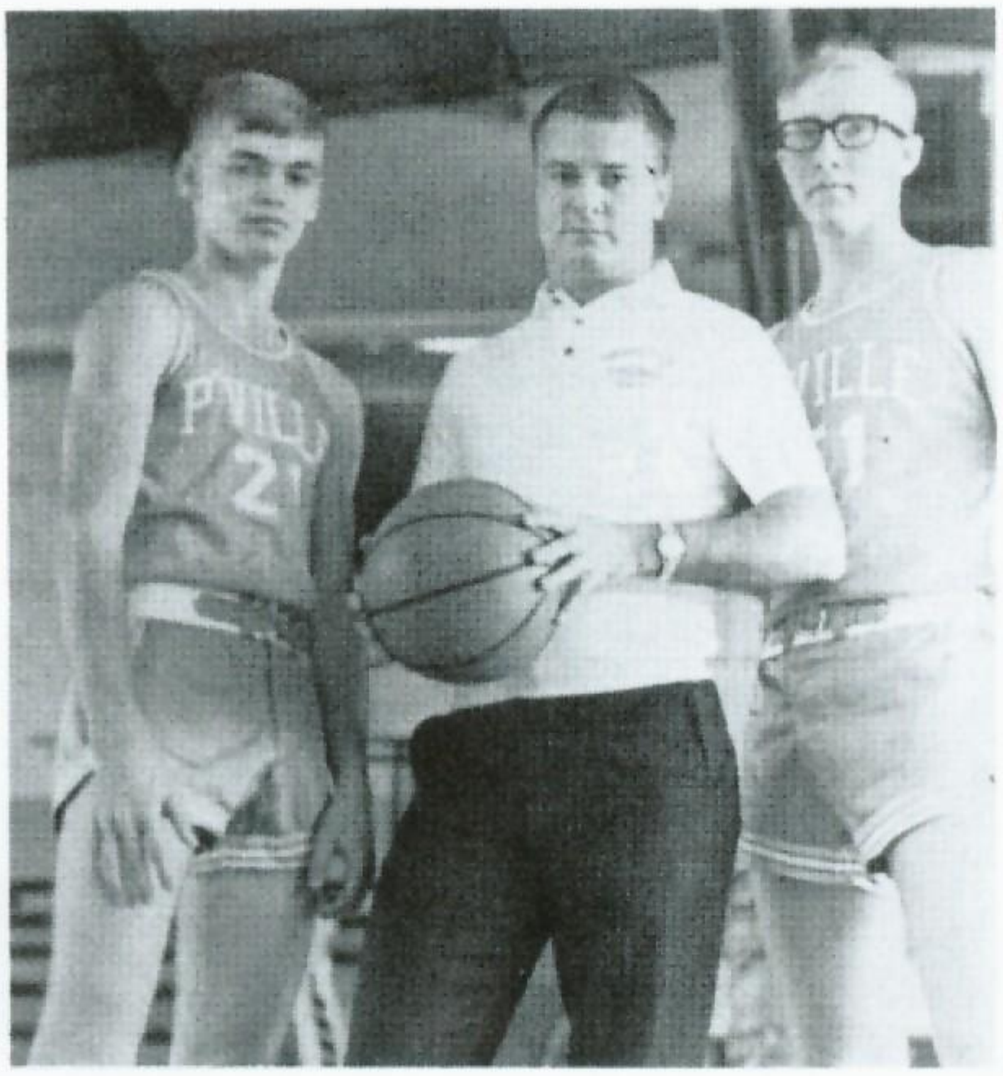
1969



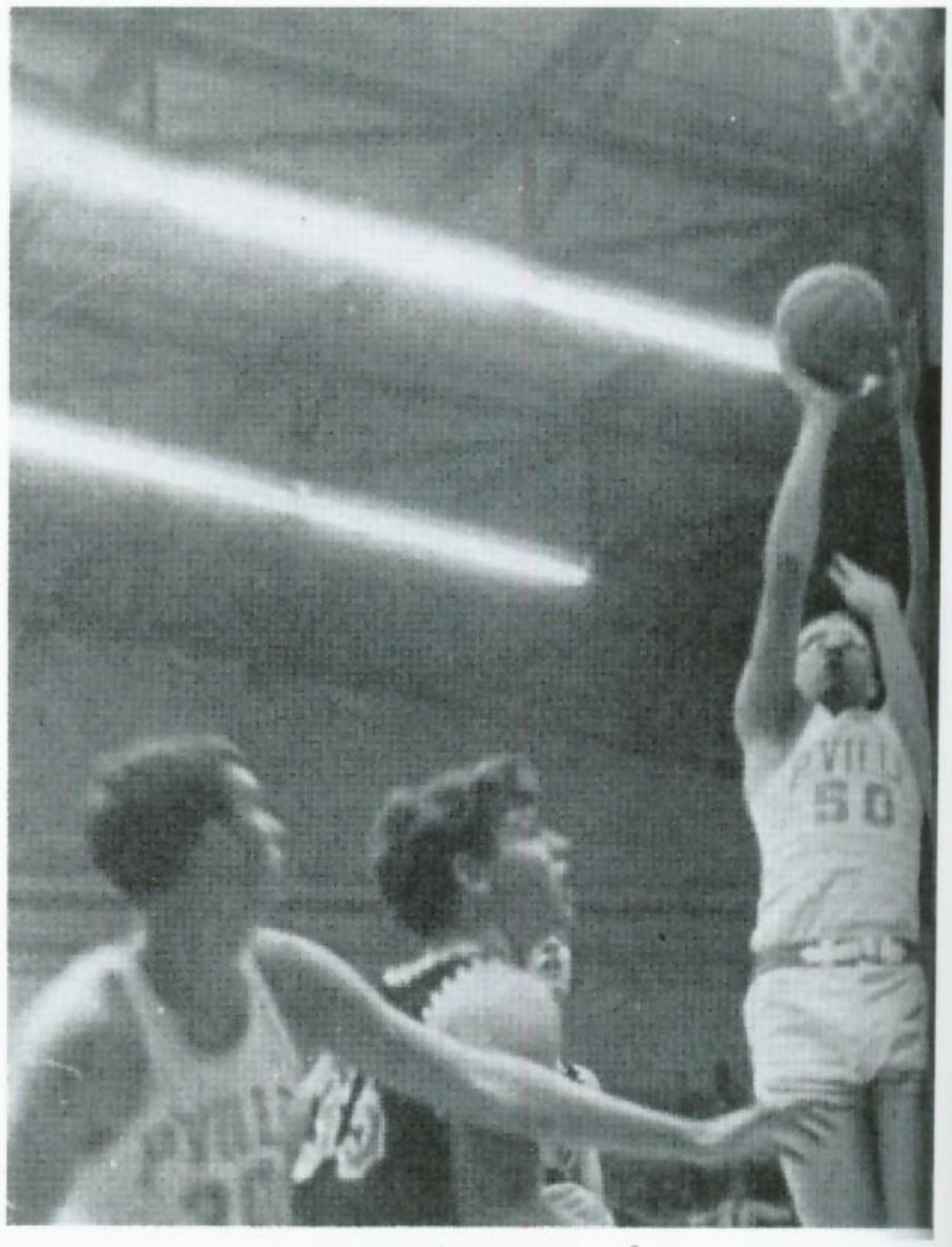
Drawing for B-ball tickets Nov.26. Ed Bigham now SIU freshmen coach. Coach Sammy Ulrich, former Panther, now Panther varsity coach. Pincks now one of top guns in South after Terrier, Frankfort games. Panthers KO Chester in Conference game 75-60. Panthers lose at McLeansboro, nearly do same at DuQuoin. Its tails, heads, tails for Pincks at C'dale Tourney. Panthers take two Conference games.

Panthers win two, take third in Salem Tourney. Consolidated 204 knocks off undefeated Tamaroa 52-47 in Nashville District Final. Panthers top A-J 87-60. Sparta wins in last nine seconds. Panthers blast Murphy 82-53. Tom Millikin, former Panther, going for Sweet Sixteen as coach of Proviso East, (article written by Rick Talley, former Panther, originally published in the Chicago American, reprinted in P'ville Democrat).

Orchids presented to mothers of senior Panther players before start of game with Belleville West. Panther top DuQuoin, bow to Belleville. Ragland's team wins two of three games. Cats bow to Johnston City 72-76. Nashville ends B-ball season for Panthers, lose semi 56-58.



Co-captains Rex Brown and Carl Goldman with head coach Sam Ulrich.



Goldman tries for two.

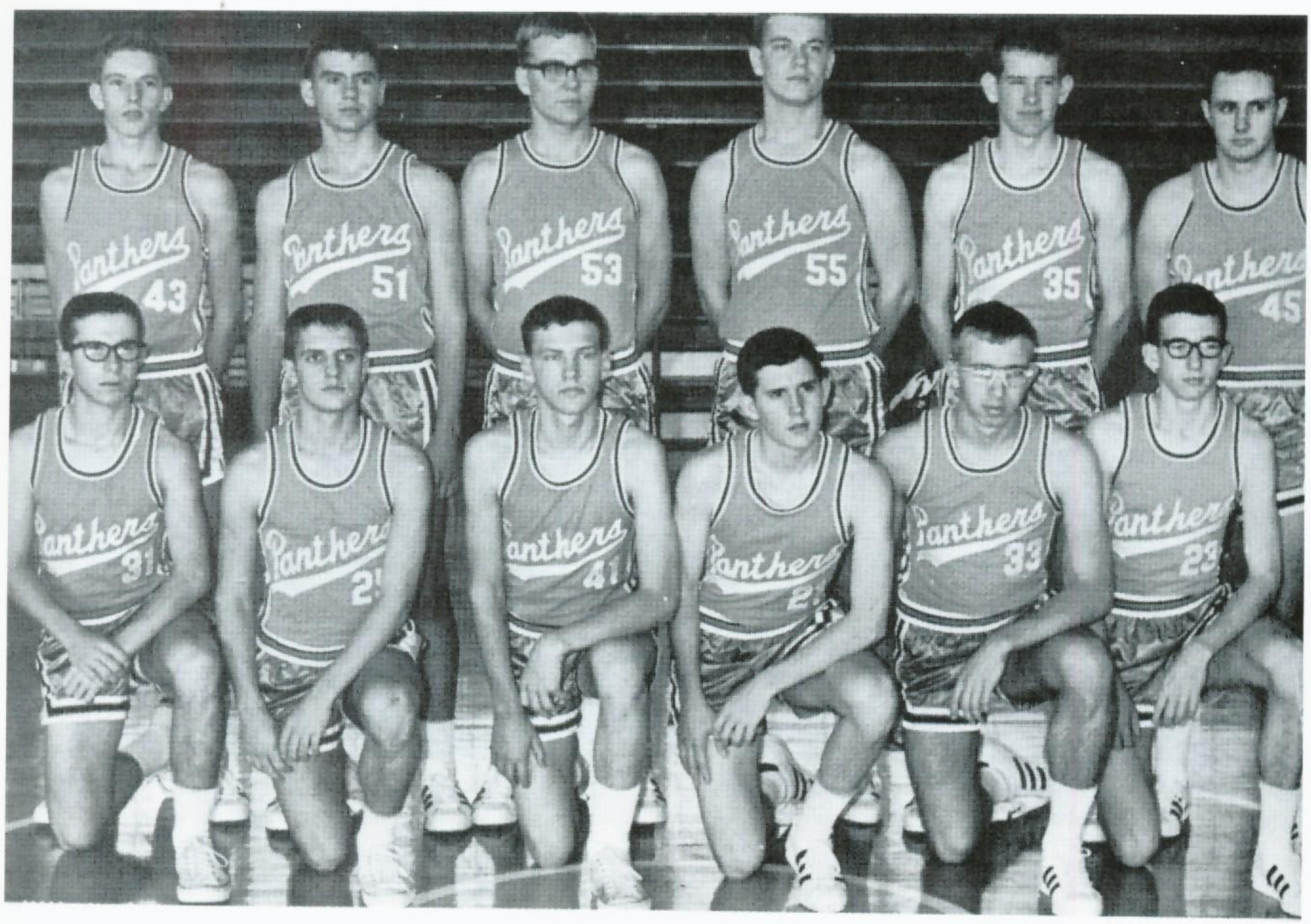
1970

Harlem Astronauts B-Ball Team will be here Sat. Nite. Drawing for season B-Ball tickets Dec. 2nd. Panthers pick off C'dale, Johnston City in season openers. Panthers drop Conference game to Chester 65-66. Pincks edge Red Devils 75-70. Panthers blast A-J 90 to 65. Panthers fall to Sparta 44-65.

Pincks meet Salem Tournament hosts Jan. 21st. Panther freshman to host tournament. Cats tails, heads two games on week end, beat Chester, lose to Nashville. Panthers second in Salem Tournament. State Tourney back live and in color on Channel 3. Panthers lose two over week end, fall to Anna, Sparta.

Ragland freshmen keep record clean in winning own tournament, now 8-0. Phantom jet pilot Capt. Tom Daffron shot down over Vietnam. Panthers blast Freeburg 80 to 39 at Regional. Plaque placed at Municipal Pool honoring Mayor Bender's efforts to build.

1971



1970-71 VARSITY BASKETBALL SQUAD

The Panthers ended a most disappointing season losing 15 games while winning only 8. But this season wasn't a total loss, as Greg Hale proved to be one of the better players in the conference. By next year, sophomores Tom Epplin and Kim Koerner will be seasoned veterans and a bright future is foreseen for this team which contains next year's juniors and seniors.

November 27 deadline for Panther B'ball reserved seats. Panthers open season Friday against tall Terriers. Cats lose one to C'dale; win one from Johnston City. Panthers play Champaign in second game of Centralia Tourney. Meeting set to explain farm set-aside program.

Telephone party line conversion nearing completion. Panthers bag two games; Nashville dumped 82-62, Chester stung 50-43. Cats lose two close ones to McLeansboro, DuQuoin. Panthers drop two costly games to Murphysboro, 79-71; Sparta 77-71. Cats lose to Sparta; drop to A-J. Panthers lose final game to W. Frankfort 75-59 to close season.

Basketball Coaches

1970-71 SCHEDULE

			We	They
Dec.	4	Carbondale	46	50
	5	Johnston City	73	68
	11	Nashville	68	62
	12	Chester	50	43
	18	McLeansboro	60	67
	19	DuQuoin	48	57
Jan.	5	Anna	81	47
	8	Murphysboro	71	79
	9	Sparta	71	77
	16	Chester	87	52
	29	Sparta	60	61
	30	Anna	82	44
Feb.	5	Nashville	48	64
	12	Murphysboro	81	69
	13	Herrin	64	73
	19	DuQuoin	74	77
	20	Belleville	58	82
	27	West Frankfort		

1972

Enrollment at PCHS down from 580 to 544. Panthers open season against Trico Nov. 30th. Panthers drop opener to Trico 51-34. Cats go to win two Conference games; defeat Nashville 80-71 Friday; Chester 58-50 Saturday. Ragland's Panther Frosh sink Sparta 67-57. Indians nail Pincks 76-63. Panthers meet Champaign Central in Centralia Tourney. Cats lose to Champaign Central 38-51. Panthers lose to W. Frankfort 89-74.

Cats beat Anna and Sparta. Panthers blizzard Anna 95-59. Panthers scare 5th rated Lincoln here Sat. night, 62-70. Regional Tournament opens here Feb. 21st. Panthers win Regional, meet Giabault in Sectional.

This year's basketball team accomplished the near impossible by almost winning the Sectional. Most everybody thought that after such a poor start they should start rebuilding for next year. But the juniors matured and with the help of the seasoned seniors they slowly developed into one of the more talented teams we have had in a long time. After Coach Renn made the boys realize that he was running the team, they started gaining confidence. As for the future, it has to look bright. There were 4 juniors who played a lot of varsity ball, but again they will have to start the season out with a new coach who doesn't know much about each player.

1973

Panther Booster Club to meet Monday nite; subject: Basketball. Coaches Anderson, Joggerst, Ragland to attend. Defensive-minded Panther team opens here Friday against Carmi. Panther Boosters swing into B'ball action. Coach Anderson announces B'ball films to be shown each Wednesday at Booster Club regular meetings, anyone welcome to attend. Panthers drop both ends of season opener to Carmi and Trico.

Pincks beat Class AA West Frankfort 49-44. Duster Thomas, Tom Millikin named to Illinois B'ball Coaches Association Hall of Fame. Panthers hot 3rd quarter sinks DuQuoin 73-54. Cats defense smothers high scoring McLeansboro 86-57. Cats face AA Wheeling at Centralia Tournament.

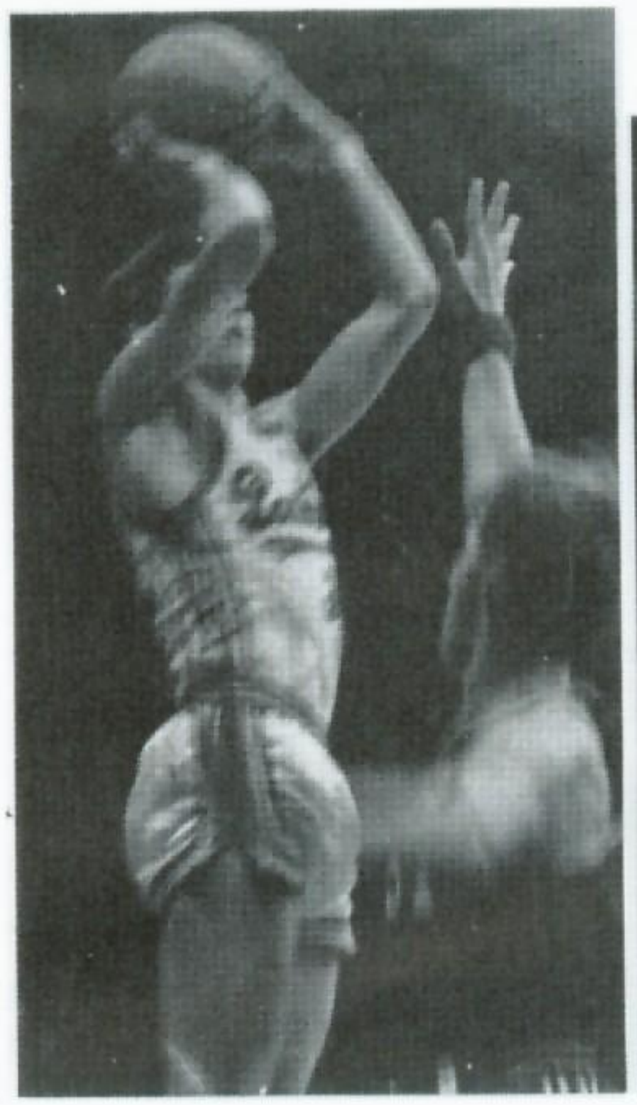
Panthers gain stature at Centralia, beat Wheeling 58-50 and lose to first-ranked Benton 59-60. Panthers survive icey second quarter to beat Anna 68-59. Boosters to duel PCHS faculty in game Feb. 3rd. Panthers bow to Red Devils; clobber luckless Sparta; play Marissa in 1st game of Sparta Tournament. Panthers drag by Marissa; meet DuQuoin Friday. Panthers bounce Chester 73-52 in Conference game. Ragland's freshmen win local Tourney. Panthers watch Trico win Sparta Tournament.

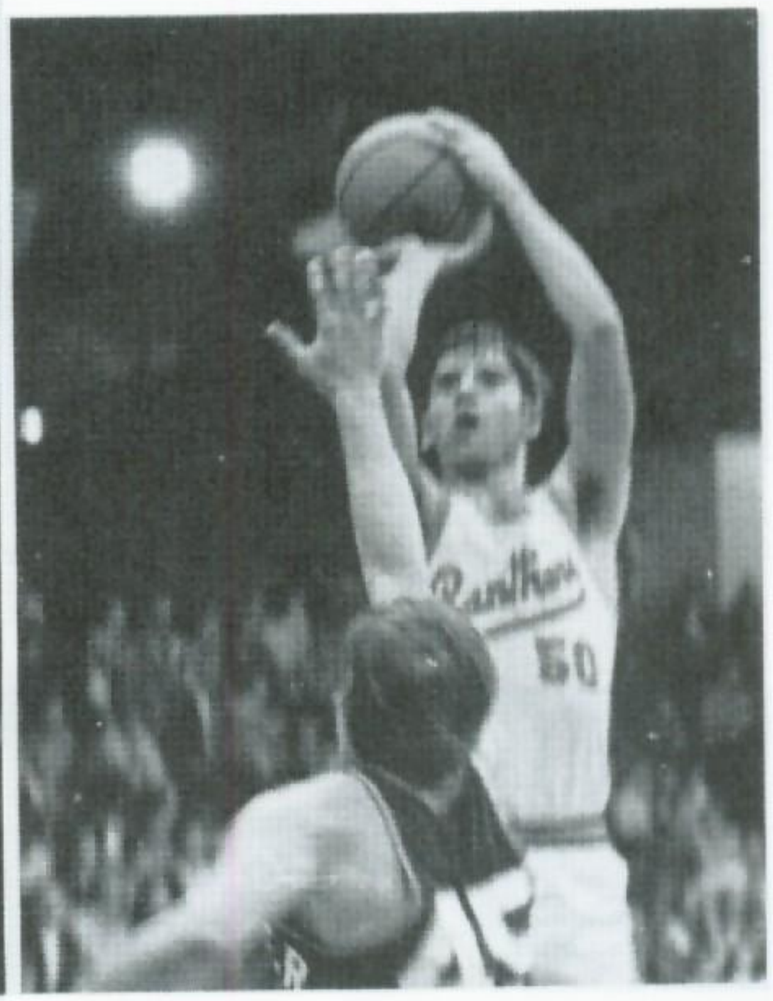
Panthers get by Sparta 61-55. Anna loss knocks Panther hopes for Conference. Booster Club vs. Faculty brings $960.00; Billy Ray Craig, in Panther Cheerleader uniform, leads cheers and plays in game. Ten Class AA teams this week end in Murphy; Panthers to take on two of top, number 14 M'boro and number 2 Lincoln. Sectional Tournament opens here March 6th. Big boys get back at Panthers. Panthers lose to Herrin by a whisker 75-73. Pincks down Chester in 1st round of Regional play. Panthers methodically annililate Aviston, or, we won 62-51. Panthers bounce Meridian from Sectional Final 70-57. Ridgeway slips past Cats in Super-sectional, 56-57.

varsity squad

This years basketball team under first year Coach Bill Anderson had a thrill only a few have had. That is being in the "SWEET SIXTEEN". Even though the team record of 17-12 does not show the greatness and determination of this team, the Panthers finished 2nd in the conference. They won the Regional, Sectional and lost by one point in the Super.

SCHEDULE		
We		They
43	Carmi	44
44	Trico	52
65	Nashville	50
58	Chester	59
49	Frankfort	44
73	DuQuoin	54
86	McLeansboro	57
CENTRALIA TOURNEY		
58	Wheeling	50
59	Benton	60
69	Anna	59
45	Murphy	54
75	Sparta	36
73	Chester	52
SPARTA TOURNEY		
69	Marissa	56
52	DuQuoin	44
52	Trico	70
61	Sparta	55
51	Anna	55
70	Nashville	45
64	Murphy	81
45	Lincoln	63
52	DuQuoin	58
73	Herrin	75
REGIONAL		
62	Chester	36
64	S'ville	47
52	Trico	51
SECTIONAL		
62	Aviston	51
70	Meridian	57
SUPER SECTIONAL		
56	Ridgway	57





1974

Coaches Anderson & Phillips

Short Panthers open long season Friday, Dec. 1st against Chicago Kenwood. Panthers lose two opening games. Panthers drop 2 of 2, lose to Nashville, Chester. Panthers lose, but pale Indians. Orphans first Panther win. Panthers upset Red Devils, but Sparta, ouch! Panthers lose one pointer to A-J. Gasoline shortage adds to driving woes. Cats lose to W. Frankfort by two. Panthers go against Benton.

Perry County is king of Illinois coal. Panthers fail at Benton. Panther girls smash Sparta. Cats win wild Chester game. Murphy 96, Pincks 55. Cats drop one pointer to Sparta. Panthers lose two pointer to Anna. Indians slaughter Pincks. Panthers open Regional here Monday against Shawnee. Pincks blow Shawnee out. Herrin hits Cats 82-58. Sparta ends Pincks season.

1975

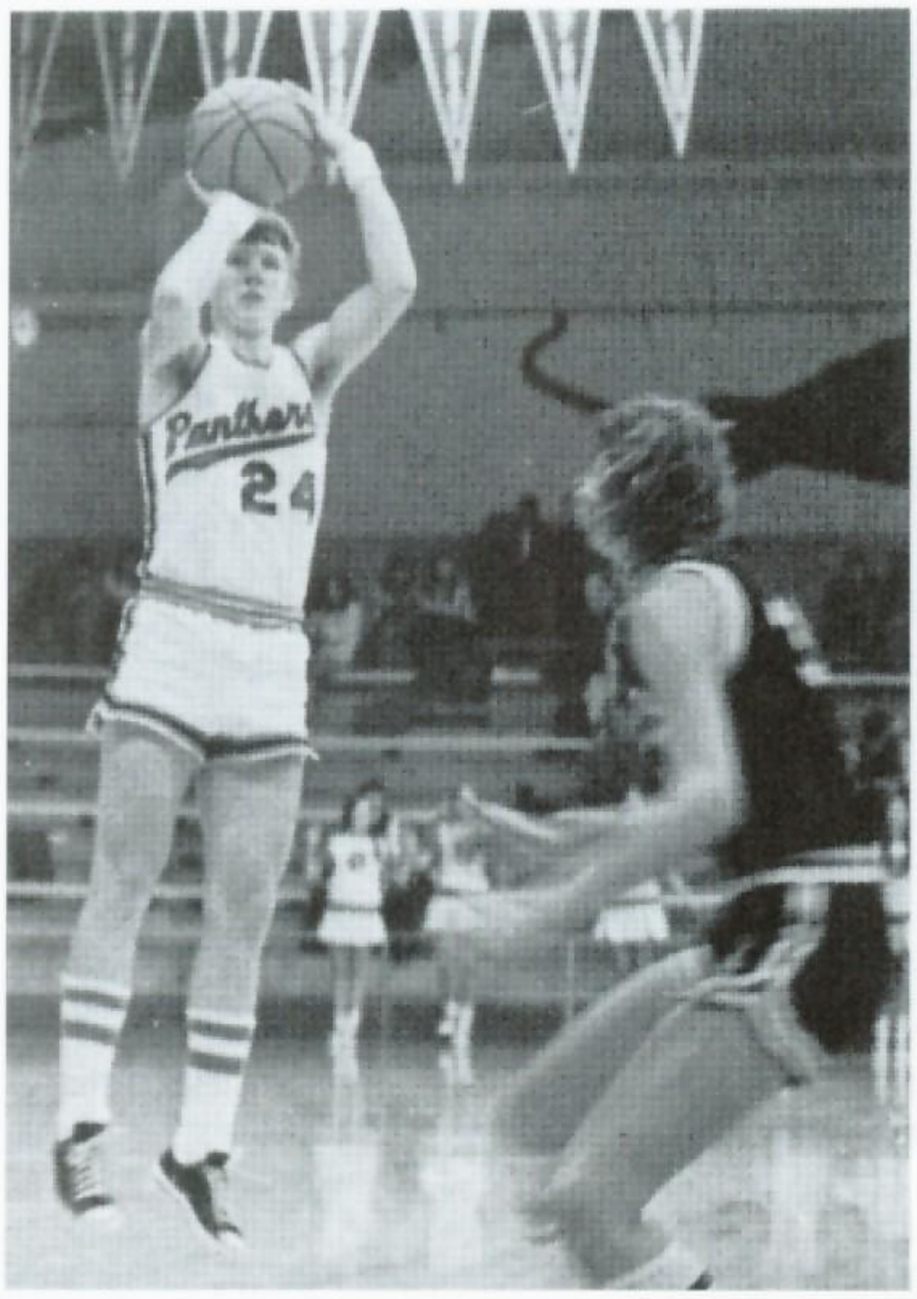
Row 1-L-R, Coach Bill Anderson, Mgr. Mark Trail, Assistant Coach Rick Phillips. Row 2, L-R, Alan Hastings, Steve Nehrkorn, Ray Porter, Larry Bigham, Bill Putman, Ray Winter, Dave Bigham, Steve Ginn, Randy Plunkett, Donnie Stanton.

PCHS enrollment up to 550. Over 600 people attend Murphy-Wall Bank 100th birthday. Panthers open Friday with Carmi. Panthers lose 59-70 to Carmi. Panthers take Conference double kill; stop Nashville, Chester. Ragland's freshmen drop Sparta 81-65. Panthers beat Carlyle, rack Indians; take Conference lead at 4-0. Panthers lose 62-68 at Anna. Devils rip Cats in last quarter.

Panthers threaten Sparta giants. Cats lose two at Centralia Tourney. Boostser Fun Nite set for Saturday. Panthers freeze in 3rd at W. Frankfort. 8th-ranked Madison stops Panthers. Cats lose two at Benton. Panthers 1-1 week end defeats Nashville, beaten by Chester. Panthers lose to Sparta Cats scare Devils, beat Carlyle.

Panthers no at DuQuoin, yes at Anna. Steeleville knocked out of Regional by Pincks. Cold last half costs Panthers in loss to Herrin. Panther F-S win Sparta Tournament.

Dave Bigham lets one fly.



Ray Winters on the move!

V. The Dick Corn Years

1976

1st ROW: Coach Glenzy, Coach Corn and mgr. Roy Tanner. 2nd ROW: Jim Luke, Donnie Stanton, David Stanton, Brad Dunn, Steve Nehrkorn, Rodney Hagel, Rushing. 3rd ROW: Kenney Epplin, Henry Guerrero, David Templeton, Ray Winter, Bill Putman, Rob Mathis, Steve Ginn and Brett Morton.

Basketball league for 4th, 5th, 6th graders. 8, 9, 10 year olds sign up for Junior Pro Basketball League Sat. Dec. 6th. Panthers open season against Carmi, win 60-50. Cats destroy Nashville, Chester with 90 point blasts. Panthers lose one Indian battle, win the second. Panthers now 5-1 after 74-51 win over Anna.

Frigid Friday, sizzling Saturday as Pincks lose to Red Devils, then crush Sparta Bull Dogs. Panthers win consolation bracket at Edwardsville Tournament, tie last year's win record. Panthers "take bird in hand' in 100-83 win over W. Frankfort.

Corn vs. Herrin? Benton Tourney could see clash of coach and former player. Madison takes Panthers to lost column 73-60. 75% Alton blasts Pincks in Benton Finals 98-70 after beating Mater Dei 61-47 and Benton 67-65. Cats take Nashville, Chester 2nd time. Perry County says 90% of jail occupants from DuQuoin.

Panthers win big one from Murphy; lose bigger one to Carlyle. Cats stop Sparta 56-52. Panthers fatten record on DuQuoin, Anna. PCHS closes while marching Panthers go to Mardi Gras parades. Four point quarter loses game for Pincks at Herrin. Panthers win Regional with torrid 4th quarter. Pinckneyville Junior Pro All-Star squad takes second in state.

Coach Dick Corn and assistant coach Gary Glenzy confer during a lull in practice.

W		L
20	—	8

A big lift was given to the Athletic Department at PCHS this year with the acclimation of Dick Corn to coach varsity basketball. Coach Corn not only gave the fans the enjoyment of watching a well oiled machine in action but also another winning season as well. Along with the 20-8 win-loss record this year the Panthers under his supervision add a consolation championship at the Edwardsville Holiday Classic along with a second place finish in the Benton Mid-Winter Invitational. The Southwest Egyptian Conference saw the Pincks take 2nd place. The conference team saw 3 Panthers placed on it with junior Bill Putman at 6-6 named Most-Outstanding Player of the year. Ray Winter and Donnie Stanton were the other 2 players placed on the conference team. With 8 returning lettermen and a big crop of sophomores and freshmen the next few years look promising.

1977

STANDING: Duke Stanton, Dave Heine, Jim Luke, Kenney Epplin, Larry Rushing, Robby Mathis, Bill Putman, Dave Templeton, Mark Mathis, Brad Dunn, Bob Heisner, Tod Rushing. KNEELING: Coach Corn, mgrs., Curt DuVall, Roy Tanner, Kurk Hawkins, Coach Glenzy.

PANTHERS CAPTURE REGIONAL CROWN

76-77 SCHEDULE

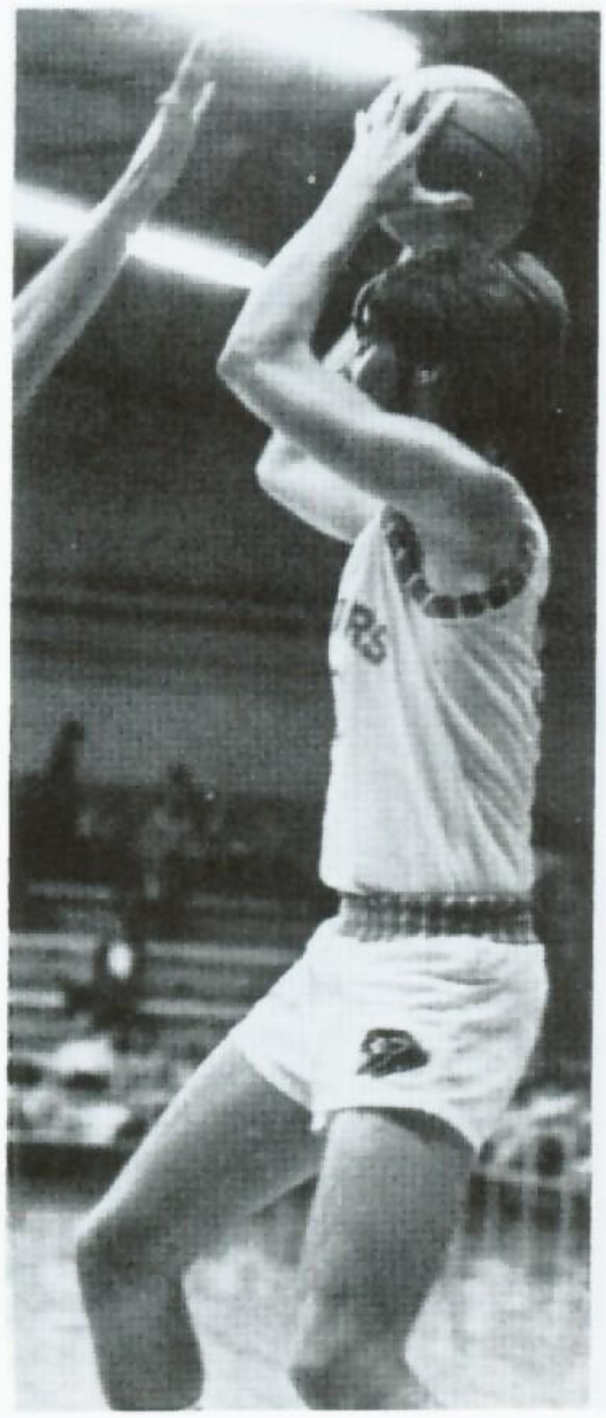
	US		THEY
11 26	64	Carmi	63
12 3	58	Nashville	70
12 4	67	Chester	35
12 10	60	Carlyle	55
12 11	51	DuQuoin	50
12 18	60	Anna Jonesboro	64
12 27-29		Centralia Tourney	
1 4	67	Sparta	53
1 7	46	Murphysboro	68
1 8	66	West Frankfort	67
1 15	68	Eldorado	90
1 18-22		Benton Invitational	
1 28	43	Nashville	61
1 29	60	Chester	24
2 4	51	Murphysboro	63
2 5	63	Carlyle	61
2 8	66	Sparta	54
2 11	52	DuQuoin	43
2 12	64	Anna Jonesboro	52
2 19	60	Herrin	54
		REGIONAL	
		SECTIONAL	

This year was one of thrills and chills as the Panthers seemed to pull off the big game when needed. Wishing his kids could have played the whole season the way they played the last quarter of their schedule, Coach Corn felt they may have advanced further than just the Sectional final. Winning their own Regional, the Panthers were to be rooted out of play in the final game of the Sectional by Marissa. Ending the season with a mark of 17 wins to 12 losses, the Panthers proved to the school and their fans they were a team with spirit and pride.

1978

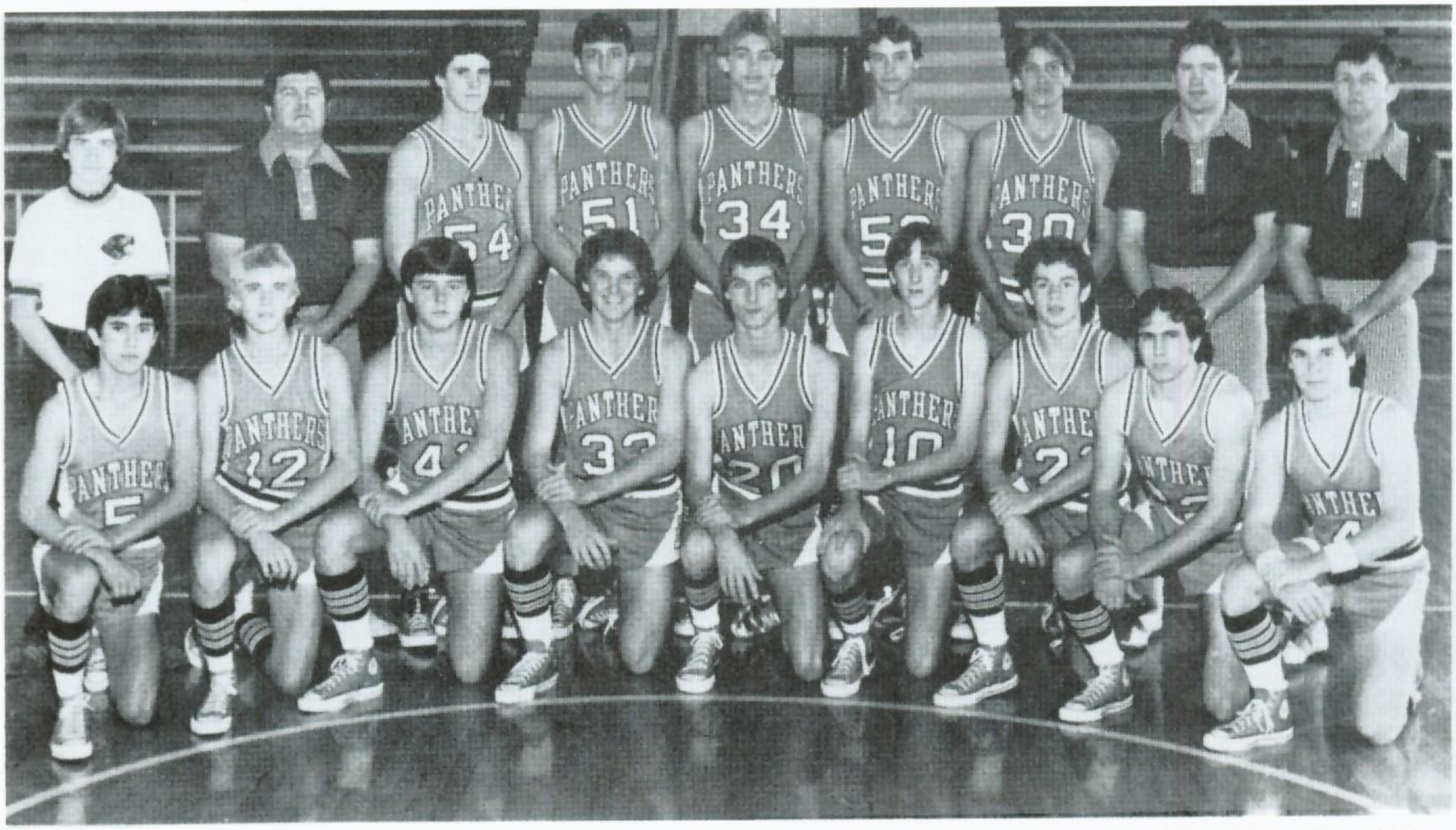
Front Row: Managers Curt Duvall, Albert Wheeler, Kirk Hawkins, and Brent Elliott. *Second Row:* Randy Corley, Mark Smith, David Heine, Bob Heisner, Steve Hull, Bryan Morton, and Doug Neherkorn. *Back Row:* Coach Glenzy, Larry Rushing, Brian Kellerman, Scott Hill, Steve Houghland, Bill Timpner, Coach Brewer, and Coach Corn.

Basketball Panthers Win Regional Tournament



David Heine *(above)* takes an outside chance. Scott Hill *(left)* shoots for two.

1979



Front Row: Tim McKinney, Jon Robinson, Jeff Chapman, Greg Bigham, Steve Hull, Wade Graskewicz, Mike Cheek, Doug Nehrkorn, and Tim Stewart. Back Row: Albert Wheeler — Mgr., Coach Glenzy, Steve Houghland, Brian Kellerman, Ray Harriss, Brent Reese, Tom Keith, Coach Hale, and Coach Corn.

Left — Steve Hull goes in for a lay-up.
Right — Doug Nehrkorn pulls up for a jump-shot.

Pyramid Staff Dedicates Yearbook To Coach Gary "Bear" Glenzy

The Pyramid Staff takes great pride in dedicating the 1979 yearbook, "Collage", to Coach Gary Glenzy.

Coach Glenzy graduated from Southeast Missouri State University at Cape Girardeau, Missouri, with a degree in Physical Education. He was first hired to teach and coach football in Chaffee, Missouri, where he worked for three years. He was so respected by his squad, that during the last assembly, he was awarded a 'POOH' Bear as a gift of remembrance from his Chaffee team. A few of the Chaffee boys further explained that during Glenzy's last football season, they felt as though they were bear cubs with Glenzy as father bear, guiding and teaching them. But how the nickname "Bear" arrived in Pinckneyville is still a mystery.

During the past nine years, Coach Glenzy has taught Driver's Education, History, and Physical Education, as well as coached baseball eight years, wrestling seven years, basketball four years, and football 9 years. He is presently teaching Physical Education and is Head football Coach. For the past two years, he has been Athletic Director, which consists of many long hours spent scheduling all sporting events for the boys' and for the girls' teams. This is one position for which enough credit and thanks can never be given.

As Head-Football coach, Glenzy has worked many long, hard, and hot hours during the summer, preparing the Panthers for the approaching football seasons. The season begins approximately two weeks before classes with two practices a day — one morning practice and an afternoon or evening practice. However, when classes do begin, at least three to four hours are spent on the football field preparing for each week's opponent. This time excludes many hours of game preparation, strategy plans, and chalk talks that are the responsibility of this man. The time he has devoted to the athletes at PCHS has paid off. Coach Glenzy has produced some of the finest teams in Southern Illinois as well as a top contender for our own Southwest Egyptian Conference crown.

Coach Glenzy's wife, Rosemary, teaches third grade at Pinckneyville Grade School. They have one daughter, Genea, a ten year old, fourth grade student at St. Bruno's Catholic School. These two ladies follow his teams with cheers and moral support both on and off the field. Coach Glenzy's family knows the meaning of "eats, drinks, and sleeps" football. Not only in the fall, but all year around, he never stops mentioning new football plays and strategies. It is not unheard of for him to be talking football while walking down the street and stopping to diagram a play in the dust on a car.

When Coach Glenzy finds spare time, a few of his hobbies include fishing, golfing, cooking and gardening. He also enjoys bowling, softball, bicycling, jogging, weight lifting — almost anything to do with sports.

1980

Varsity Basketball: Kneeling (Left to Right): Albert Wheeler — trainer, Coach Carn, Coach Glenzy, Coach Brewer, Coach Hale; Standing (Left to Right): Jon Robinson, Mike Cheek, Tim Johnston, David Leehy, Kerry Graskewicz, Tom Keith, Brent Reese, Ray Harriss, Brian Rushing, Tim Place, Wade Graskewicz, Jeff Chapman, Van Craig, Tim Stewart.

The Varsity Panthers pieced a fine year of the talent and ambition to a 21-10 record. For the second year the Panthers attended the Eldorado Holiday Tournament and again brought home the third place trophy. They started out the tournament by defeating Carmi and Ridgeway to advance to the semi-finals. This placed the Panthers against Cairo, rated 3rd in the state. The Panthers were defeated by Cairo, in overtime, which was the most exciting game of the tournament. The final game of the tournament gave the third place trophy to Pinckneyville over Fairfield.

The end of January took the Panthers to the Benton Invitational, this year a Round Robin. The Panthers lost their first game, again to Cairo, but brought back three wins over Edwardsville, Olney, and Okawville. Their final game against Benton, for the championship, was a let down. This loss put the Panthers in a 4-way tie for first place, with a record of 3-2. Finishing the regular season, the Panthers had an 18-9 record and a 7-5 conference mark for a second place tie with Nashville.

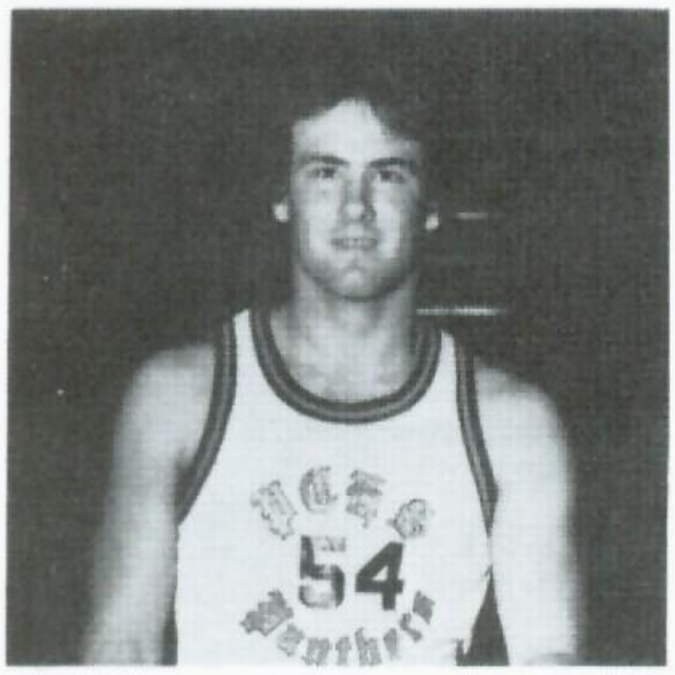
Now the season was at its peak, the Regional Tournament. Their first win, over Tico, advanced the Panthers to the Championship game against Chester. This victory brought the Panthers to a home court advantage over Meridian in the first round of the Sectional. The Panthers once again advanced to the championship game. The long awaited victory for a Sectional Title fell short for the Panthers and Coach Corn. The 57-56, loss to the Okawville Rockets, who went on to win third place at the state tournament, ended the season for the Panthers at 21-10.

Panthers suffer Okawville "Blues" after Sectional Championship Game.

1981

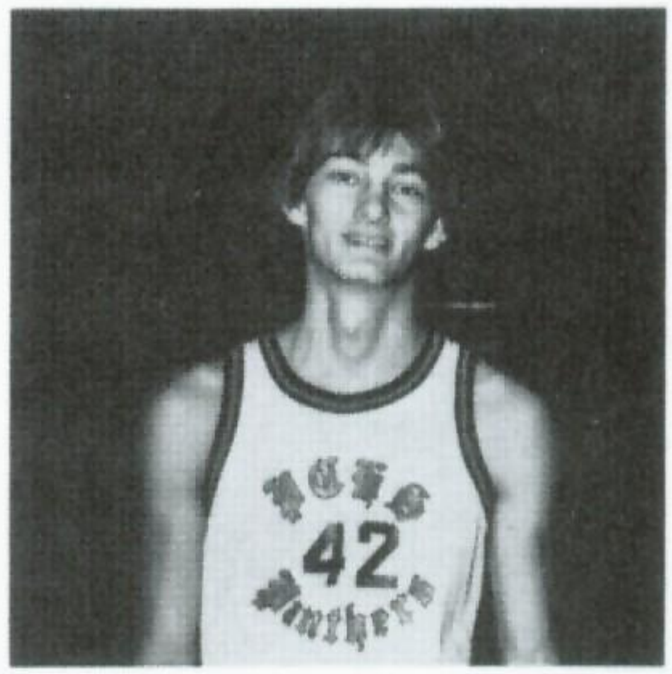
Varsity Basketball: Front Row (Left to Right): Asst. Coach Greg Hale, Manager Glenn McKinstry, Manager David Mucha, Trainer Albert Wheeler, Asst. Coach Gary Glenzy. Middle Row (Left to Right): Kent Lazenby, Richie Carlson, Chris Stewart, Van Craig, Dallas Bigham. Back Row (Left to Right): Asst. Coach Larry Pfau, Tim Johnston, Todd Carns, Wade Graskewicz, Tim Place, Ray Harriss, Brian Rushing, Kerry Graskewicz, David Leehy, Neal McDaniel, Head Coach Dick Corn.

The Panthers' Ray Harriss tips off against Cairo's Anthony Webster to start Supersectional Play at the SIU Arena.



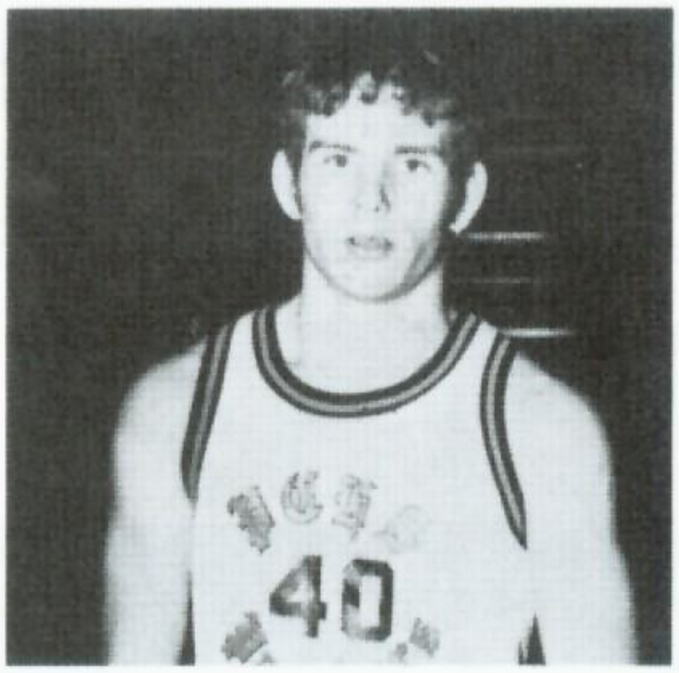
Todd Carns

Wade Graskewicz

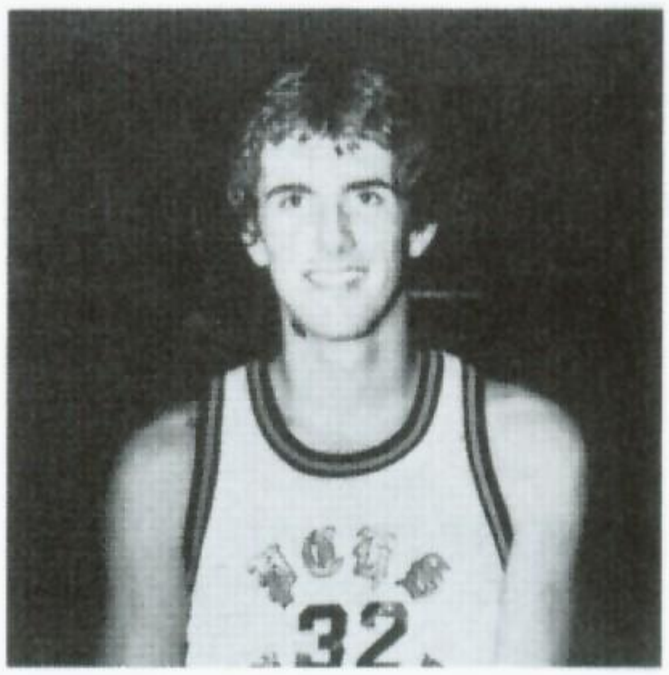


Ray Harriss

Tim Johnston



David Leehy



Tim Place

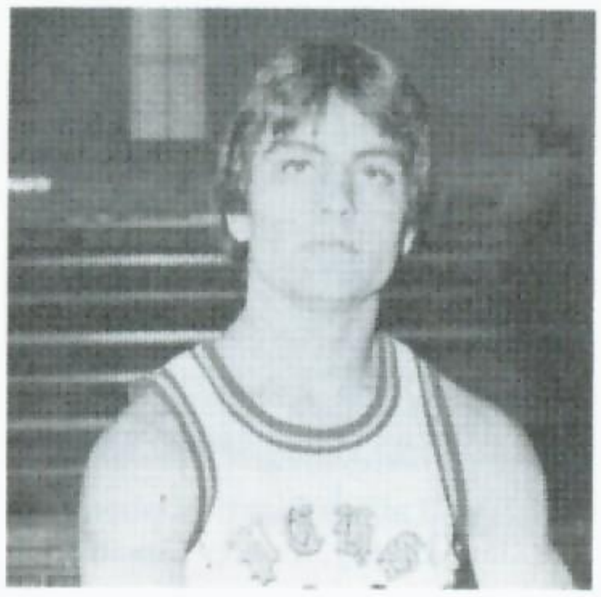
1982

Varsity Basketball: **Front Row (left to right):** Asst. Coach Larry Pfau, Manager Greg Thompson, Kent Lazenby, Richie Carlson, Darron Hopp, Van Craig, Tim Robinson, Manager Kevin Grantham, Head Coach Dick Corn. **Back Row (left to right):** Asst. Coach Greg Hale, Rod Rushing, Mike Millikin, Karl Kellerman, Brian Rushing, Brook Walton, Kerry Graskewicz, Tom Dobrinick, Steve Huggins, Asst. Coach Gary Glenzy.

Richie Carlson

Van Craig

Kerry Graskewicz



Kent Lazenby

Brian Rushing

1983

VARSITY BASKETBALL — Front Row, Left to Right: Manager Greg Thompson, Tim Robinson, Darren Hopp, Toby Queen, Daron Chandler, Jim Carlson, Manager Kevin Grantham. Back Row, Left to Right: Asst. Coach Greg Hale, Steve Huggins, Dan Haggard, Brook Walton, Karl Kellerman, Mike Millikin, Rod Rushing, Head Coach Dick Corn, Towel girl Rhonda Hardin, Asst. Coach Gary Glenzy.

Steve Huggins shoots two over Rangers.

BOYS' BASKETBALL COACHES — Left to Right: Sophomore Coach Wes Choate, Junior Varsity Coach Gary Glenzy, Varsity Coach Dick Corn, Freshman Coach Greg Hale.

1984

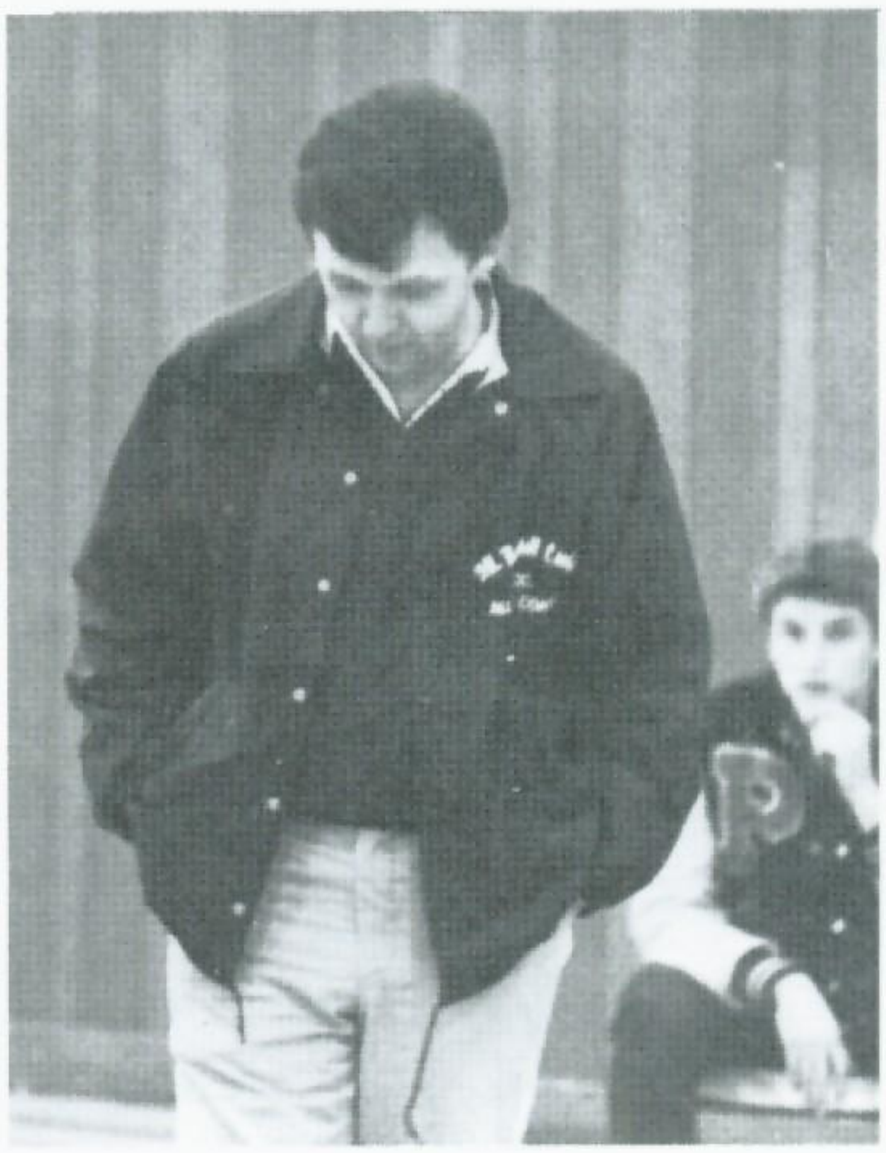
1983-84 Varsity Basketball Team — L-R, Front Row: Klint Hawkins, Greg Thompson, and Kevin Grantham (managers). Second Row: Coaches Wes Choate, Dick Corn, Greg Hale, and Gary Glenzy. Back Row: Dennis Ginn, Daron Chandler, Darren Hopp, Danny Cheek, Rod Rushing, Danny Haggard, Jason Carson, Karl Kellerman, Dwayne Epplin, Brad Shotten, Toby Queen, Steve Thomas, and Jimmy Carlson.

Coach Corn discusses strategy with the team.

1985

Boys' Varsity Basketball — Front Row (L-R): Managers Bart Ferrero, Kevin Grantham, and Klint Hawkins. **Second Row (L-R):** Coach Wes Choate, Darin Webb, Matt Mason, Kyle Heisner, Alex Eddy, Steve Thomas, Mike Isaacs, Ross Guthrie, and Coach Gary Glenzy. **Back Row (L-R):** Head Coach Dick Corn, Danny Cheek, Dean Blades, Chad Rushing, John Batson, Jason Carson, Dwayne Epplin, Brad Shotten, Mike Chapman, and Coach Greg Hale.

Seniors — Bottom (L-R): Brad Shotten, Dean Blades. **Top (L-R):** Dan Cheek, Alex Eddy.



Coach Corn gives an encouraging talk to the players and fans before the Sectional game.

1986

Varsity Basketball (Front) Klint Hawkins Mgr., Bart Ferrero Mgr., Greg Morgenthaler, Barry Craig, Ross Guthrie, Darin Webb, Matt Jason, Steve Thomas, Eric Dunn Mgr. (Second Row) Asst. Coach Wes Choate, Asst. Coach Gary Glenzy, Barry Graskewicz, Shay Hagel, Aaron Epplin, Kyle Heisner, Blake Lindner, Kevin Bird, Nathan Homan, Head Coach Dick Corn, Asst. Coach Greg Hale. (Back) Danny Harriss, John Batson, Jason Carson, Dwayne Epplin, and Chad Rushing.

Nine Seniors Lead 25-5 Squad

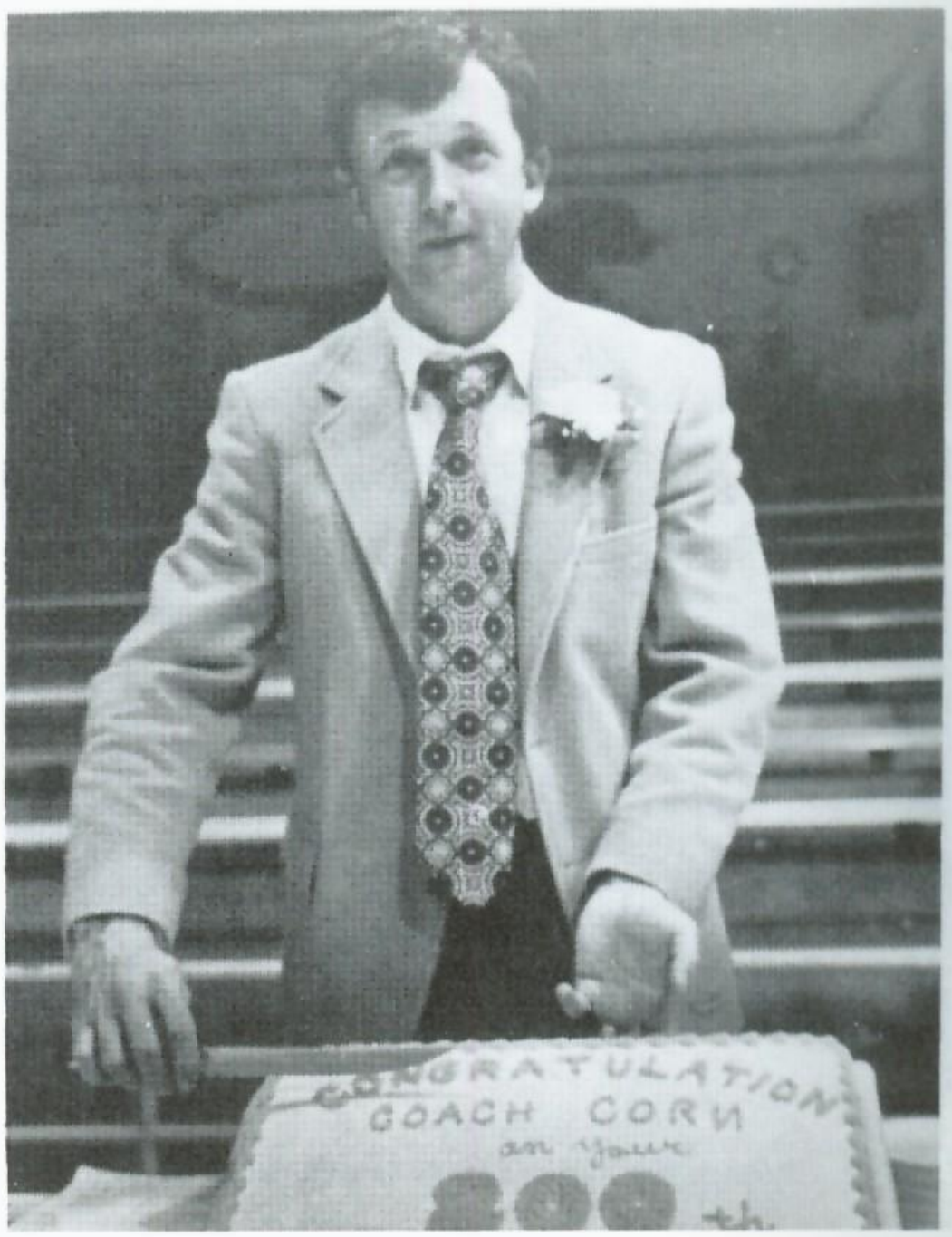
The Varsity Panthers, led by nine seniors, enjoyed a successful season with many highlights, including a final record of 25-5.

The Panthers' season opener saw them victorious over Eldorado. Of note was the fact that it was Coach Dick Corn's 200th career victory as Panther head coach. Many more victories would be added before season's end.

Three conference foes and perennial state "toughies" Madison, Benton, and Cairo all fell in the early season before the first loss to non-conference Carlyle. The holiday tourney at Carbondale was next, where the Panthers rolled into the Class A final before being defeated in triple overtime by DuQuoin.

January saw the Panthers add four more wins in conference play and one non-conference loss to Herrin, then repeating that 4-1 record in the Benton tournament for a second place finish. February brought the final five victories in the Southwestern Egyptian Conference and the completion of an undefeated conference record at 12-0.

The Panthers were winners of the Sparta Regional in post-season play, the tenth such championship for Coach Corn in his eleven years as head coach. The next stop was the Nashville Sectional where the Panthers avenged the early loss to Carlyle with a semi-final victory before closing out the season, losing to DuQuoin in the finals of the Sectional Tournament.



1987

Varsity (L to R) Managers: Bryan Helvey, Bart Ferrero, Matt Mathis, John Mucha, Rick Yeager. Row two: Coach Hale, Brett Isaacs, Kent Brookman, Shay Hagel, David Roe, Nathan Chapman, Barry Craig, Greg Morgenthaler, Coach Choate. Row three: Coach Corn, Aaron Epplin, J.P. Kelley, Blake Lindner, Danny Harriss, Kevin Bird, Jimmy Bauersachs, Barry Graskewicz, Nathan Homan, Coach Glenzy

Panthers fired-up and ready in traditional magic circle!

Panthers celebrate after Regional victory.

1988

Varsity Basketball: Front Row-Bryan Helvey, Andrea Clark, David Roe, Erin Smith, John Mucha, and Keith Simpson. Middle Row-Coach Wes Choate, Chris McGranahan, Wayne Teddar, Shay Hagel, Aaron Epplin, Nathan Chapman, Brett Isaacs, and Coach Dick Corn. Back Row-Coach Greg Hale, Troy Rushing, Aaron Kellerman, Kevin Bird, Jim Bauersachs, Danny Harriss, Blake Lindner, Wes Sroka, Barry Graskewicz, and Coach Gary Glenzy.

Panthers' Dream Season 32-3

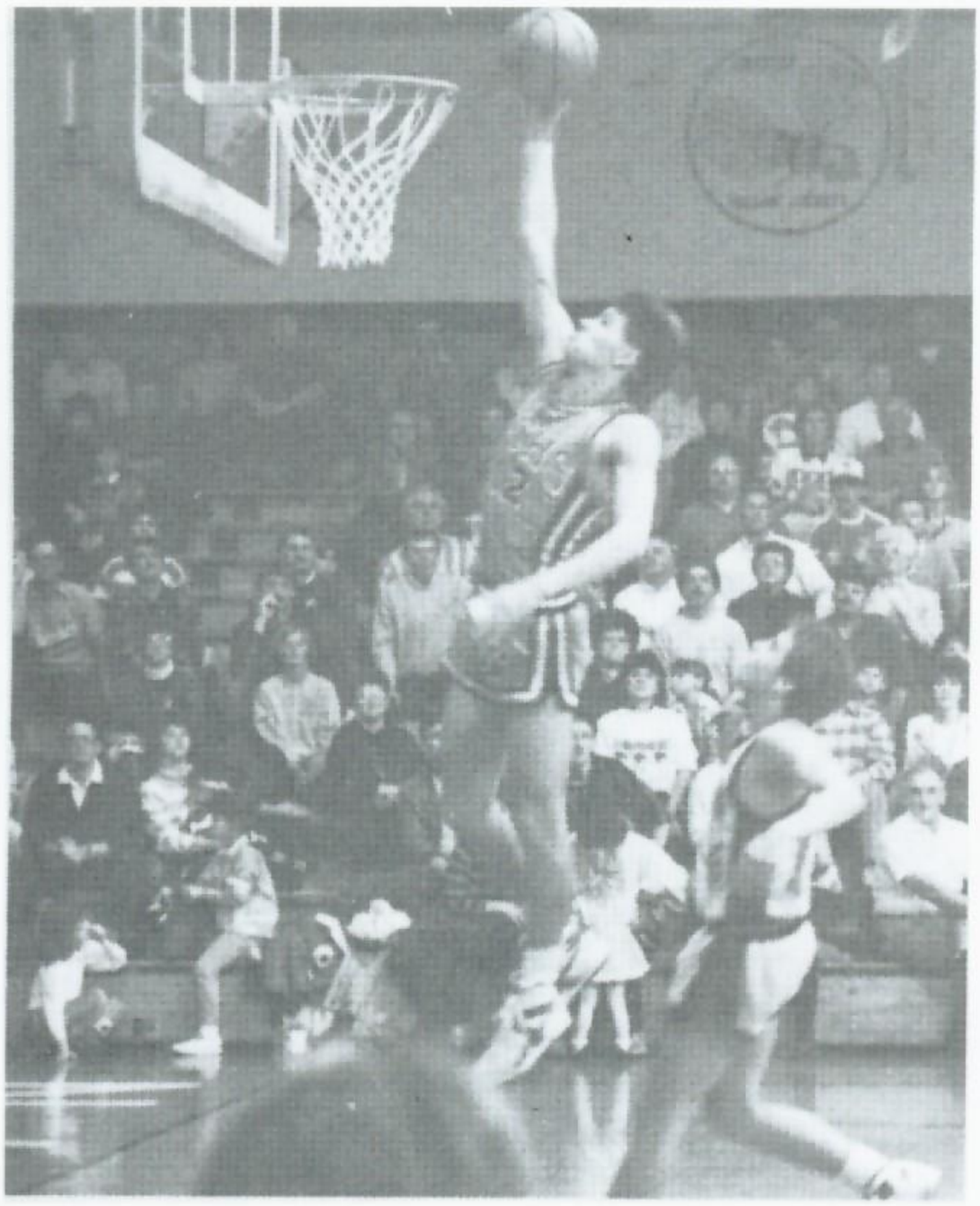
"Fast-paced", "high scoring", and "competitive college play" are only a few of the labels the 1987-88 Panthers picked up on the 'Road to the Big House'. "Corn's Cagers", set their own pace throughout the season be blistering to a 15-0 record before suffering one of only three defeats for the season. Led by eight seniors and supported by a strong bench composed of underclassmen, the Panthers strolled through all tournaments with fire in their eyes and a state title in their hearts.

With banners flying and pressure mounting, post-season play began with a Regionals title. Sectionals tired the Panthers, but a title was captured. Super-Sectionals brought Carmi to Carbondale and after an action-filled game, the Panthers had a one way ticket to Champaign — Assembly Hall. Not satisfied with a mere trip there, the Panthers knocked off highly touted Watseka and Walther Lutheran, before coming up second in the Championship.

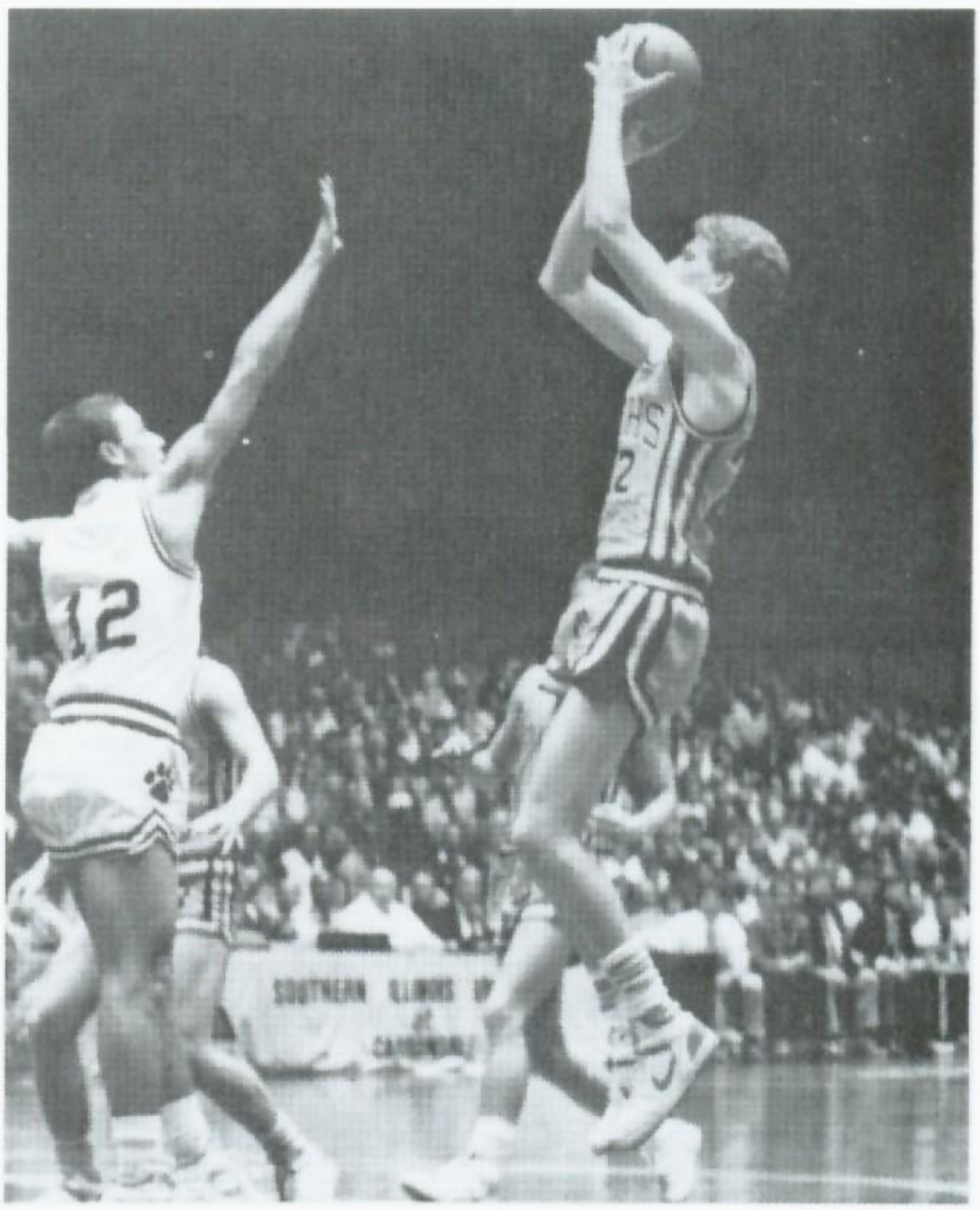
LIST OF ACCOMPLISHMENTS

S.W.E.C. Conference Champions
Benton Tournament Co-Champions
Carbondale Holiday Tournament Class 'A' Champions
— Championship Plus Winner
Regional Champions
Sectional Champions
Super-Sectional Champions
Class A State Runner-Up

Final Record 32-3



Shay Hagel skies for two against DuQuoin.

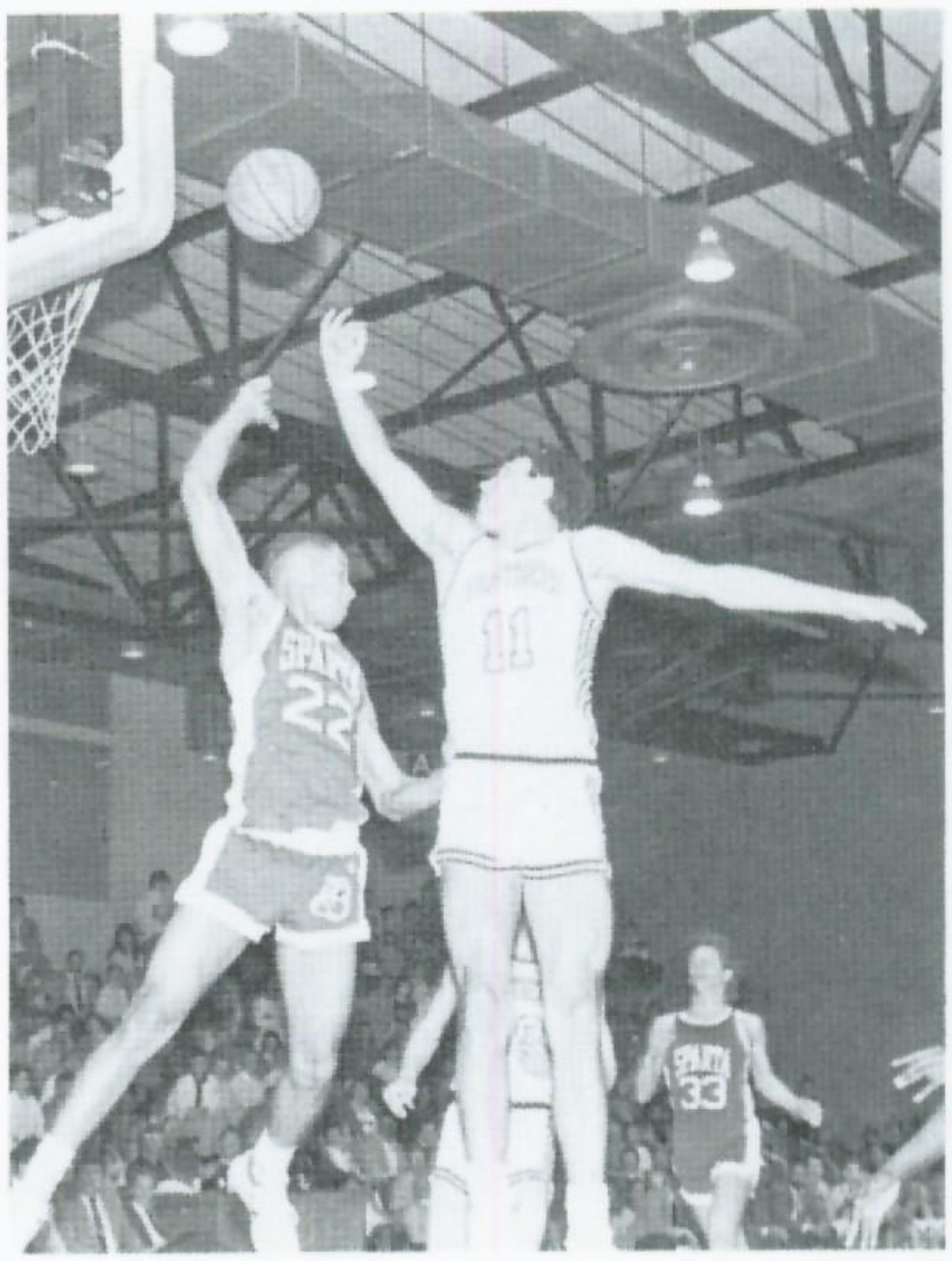


Barry Graskewicz shoots his smooth jumper during the Super-Sectional game at S.I.U.

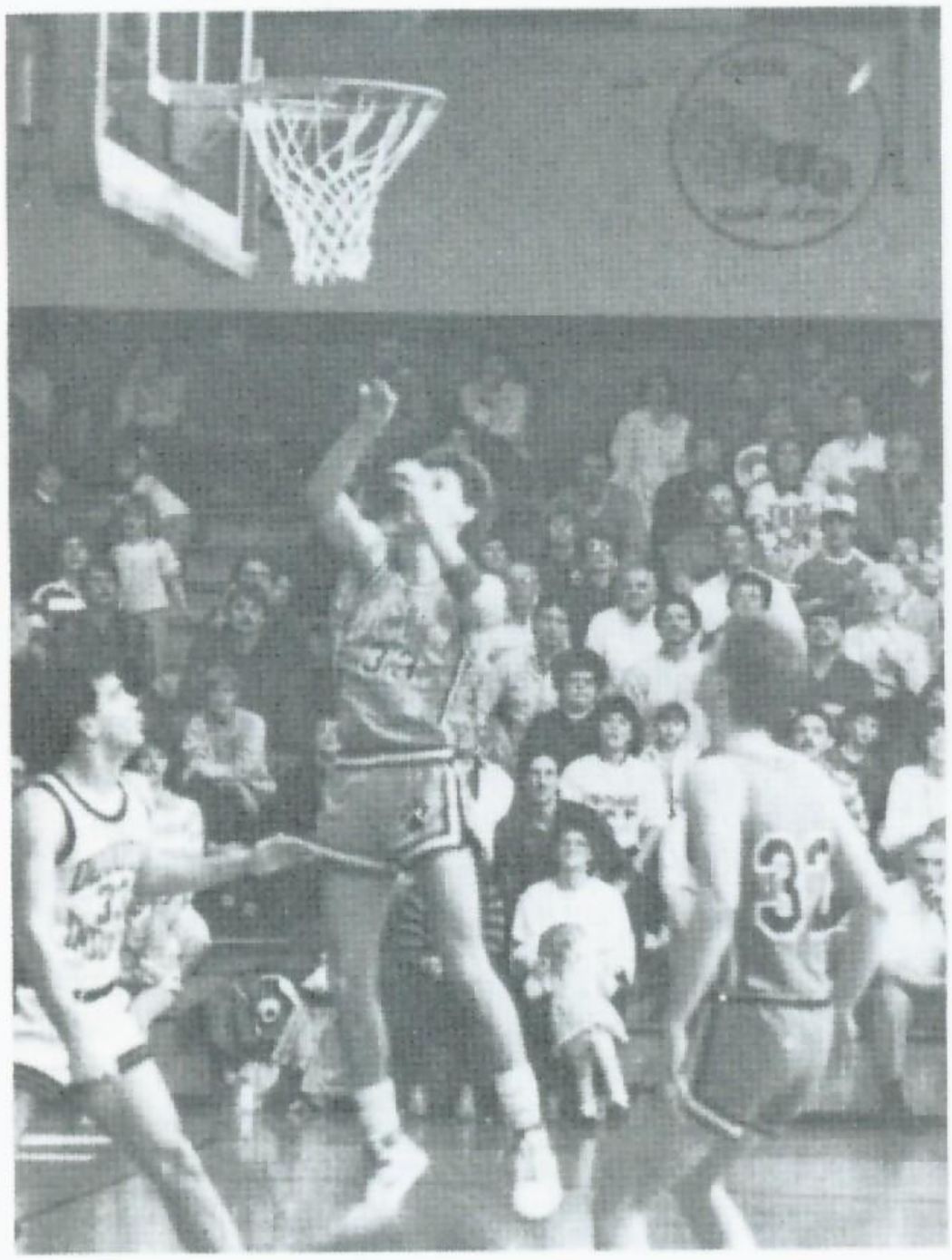
Aaron Epplin in heavy traffic shows Woodlawn what it takes to score for the Panthers.

Blake Lindner gives fans a spectacular finger roll against Carmi.

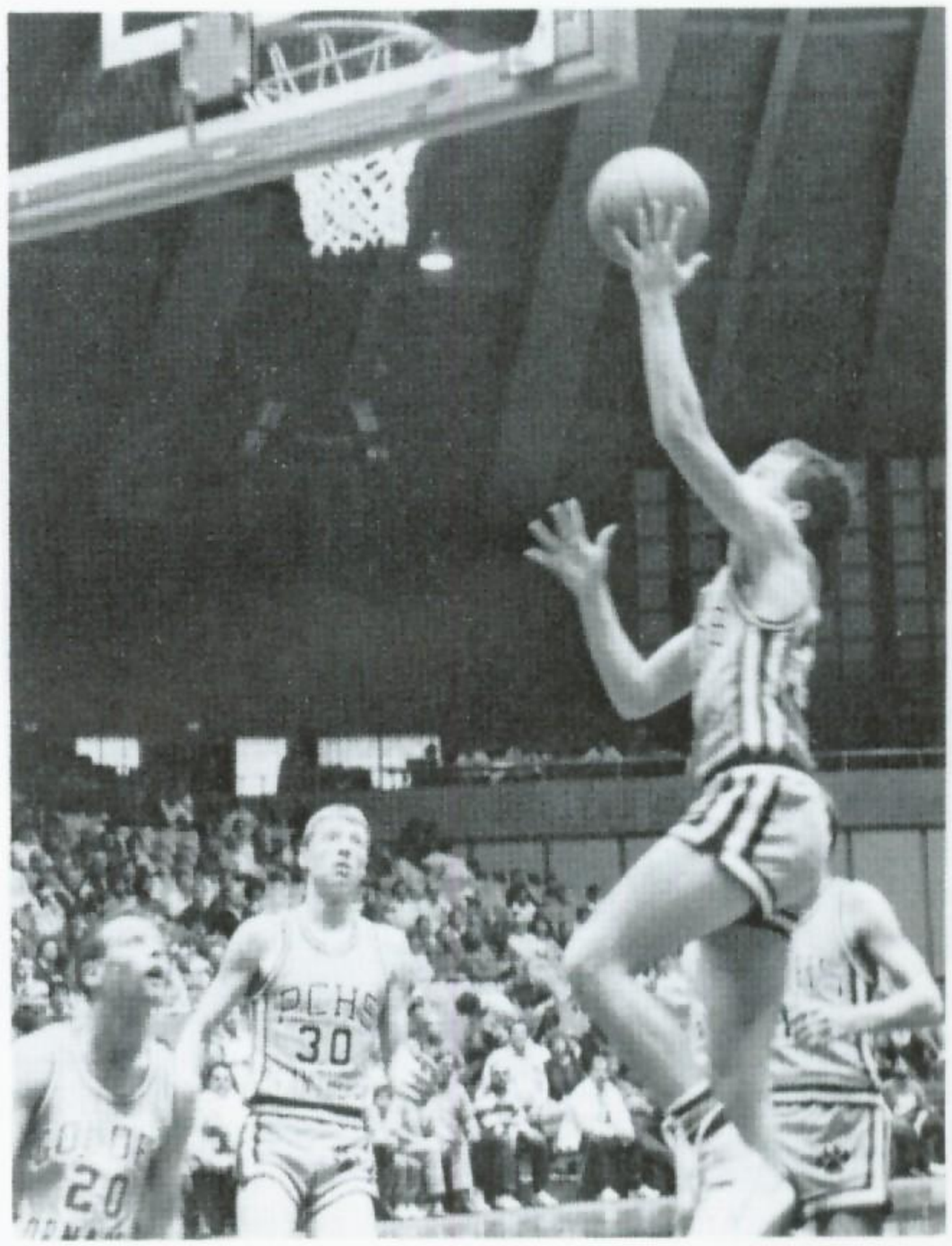
Nate Chapman lays one off the glass as Wayne Teddar (30) gives assistance.



Jim Bauersachs gives Sparta a taste to what it's like to play above the rim.

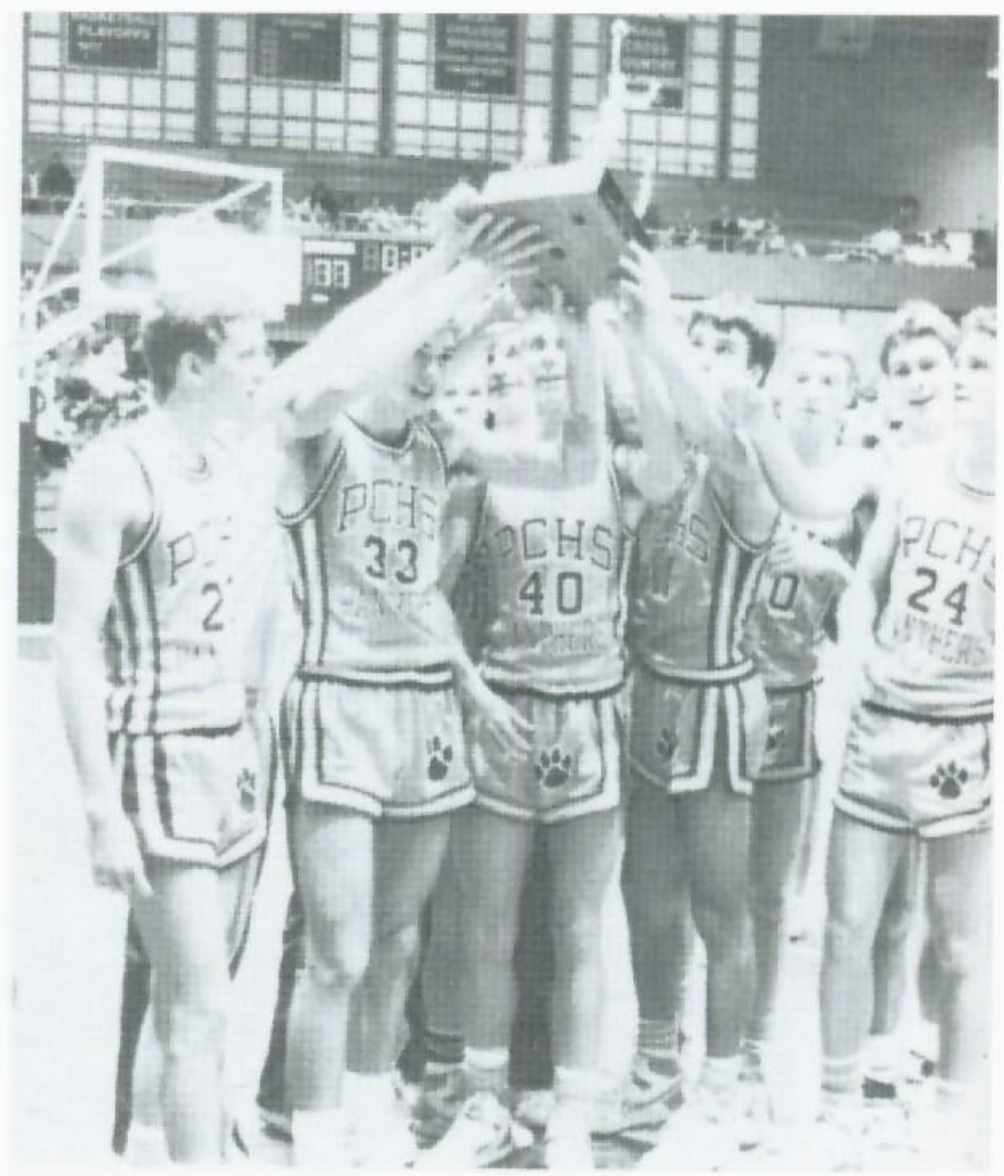


Danny Harriss shoots a fade away jumper against the Indians.

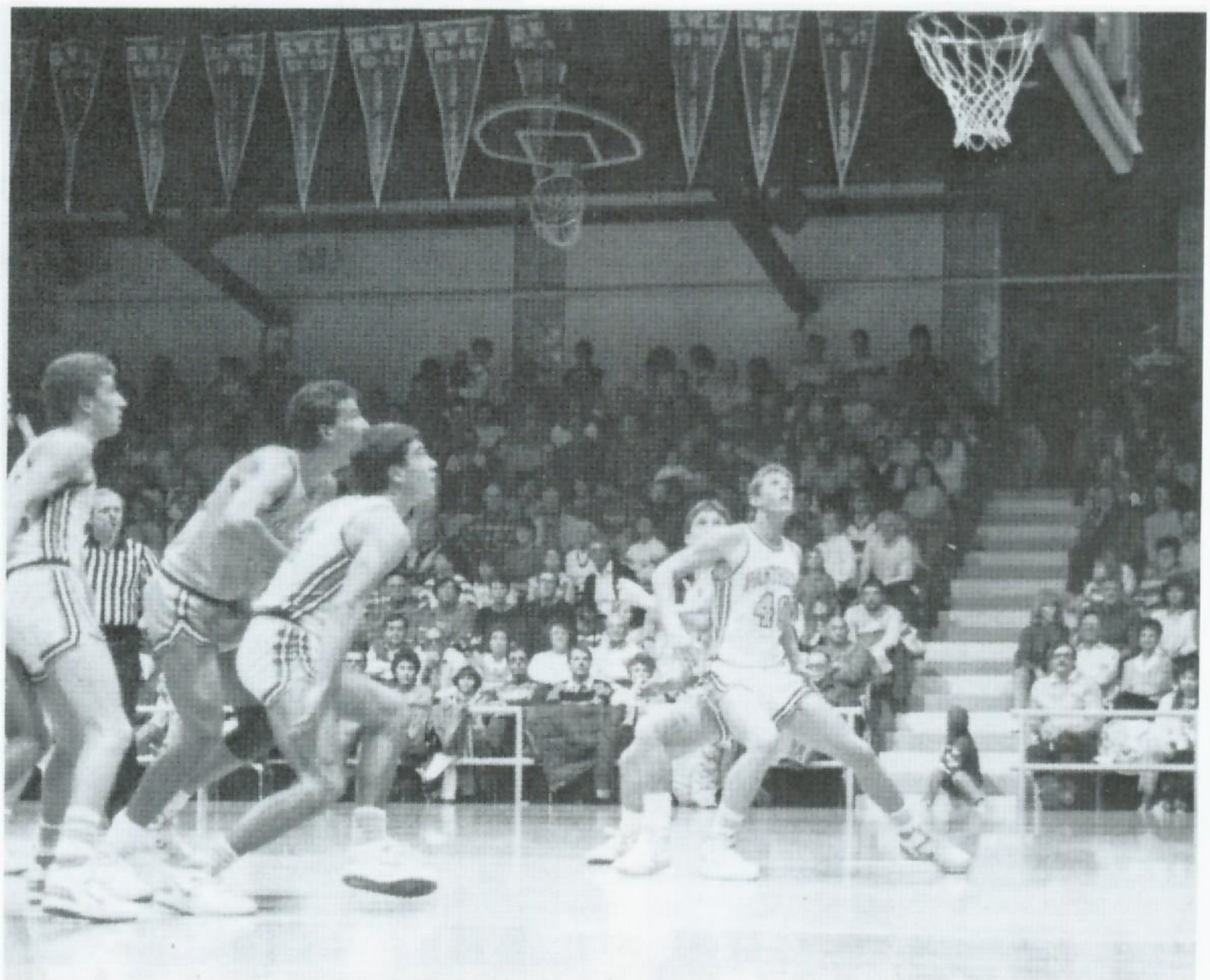


Kevin Bird goes high for an easy two in front of the home crowd.

Coach Corn's intensity shows as he makes a point in the huddle.



"To the victors go the spoils" — A phrase that applied to the 88 Panthers all season long.



Solid defense and fundamentals make the difference against Carlyle in the Sectional finals propelling the Panthers to state. (Coverage of State trip is on pages 154-157.)

1989

Varsity Team: Kneeling: John Mucha, Steve Rheinecker, Brian Keller, David Adcock, Chris McGranahan, Brady Jennings, Joel Harris, Chad Wilkins, Bobby Wildermuth, Brian Helvey, Doug Pratt. Standing: Coach Gary Glenzy, Coach Greg Hale, Mark Doerflein, Bill Doerflein, Aaron Kellerman, Caleb Rath, Wes Sroka, Wayne Tedder, Troy Rushing, Mike Napier, and Coach Dick Corn.

The Varsity Panthers finished the season with a record of 23 and 9. They tied for the conference title with Nashville. Both teams had a conference record of 9 and 3.

The Panthers won the Carbondale Holiday Tournament Championship Plus game for the second consecutive year, with a stunning defeat over the Springfield Senators. Troy Rushing was named to the All-Tournament team and was chosen as the Most Valuable Player of the class A Teams.

The Panthers did well in the Benton Tournament with victories over Okawville, Benton, and a last second shot to beat McCleansboro. Panther players Wayne Tedder and Troy Rushing were named to the Benton Invitational All-Tournament team.

The Regional Tournament was held at Sparta, and March Madness was in the air. The Panthers played three tough games, and came out on top with yet another Regional title after defeating the Coulterville Eagles. It was the Panthers' 13th Regional Championship under Coach Dick Corn, and it was Coach Corn's 300th victory as Panther Head Coach.

Sectional Action was held at Nashville. The Panthers first game was against the Sesser Spartans. The gym was filled with a sea of blue. After an intense action filled game, the Panthers won by 14 points. Coach Corn and his "Cardiac Cats" now had to face the number 2 state-ranked and eventual State Champions Carlyle Indians. Both teams were fired up, but the season came to an end. Following regular season play Troy Rushing and Wes Sroka were named to the All-Conference team.

LIST OF INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

M.V.P. — Troy Rushing
Most Improved — Caleb Rath
Best Defensive — Bobby Wildermuth
Most Assists — Mike Napier
Best Free Throw % — Wayne Tedder
Most Rebounds — Wes Sroka

1990

Panthers Finish Season 25-5

Varsity Team — Front Row: Eric Kreger, Steve Rhienecker, and Rob Opp. Middle Row: Sonya Hartstirn, Andrea Clarke, Shawn Plumlee, Mike Napier, Chris McGranahan, K[illegible] Hardin, Brian Fagerland, and Erin Pratt. Back Row: Coach Dick Corn, Coach Gary Glenzy, Chris Anderson, Bill Doerflein, Caleb Rath, [illegible]s Sroka, Scott Sumner, Mark Doerfein, Coach Greg Hale, and Coach Tom Hawkins. Not pictured: Brian Keller.

The Varsity Panthers finished the season with a record of 25 and 5. They played well and placed second in the Conference. Caleb Rath, Chris McGranahan, and Mike Napier were named to the All-Conference Team.

The Panthers did well in the Carbondale Holiday Tournament with victories over Carterville, Massac County, Murphysboro, and Carlyle. They were second in Class A in the tournament.

The Panthers shared the Benton Tournament Title with Benton. In the final game, Mike Napier tipped in a missed shot as the buzzer sounded, to give the Panthers a 62-60 victory. Chris McGranahan, Mike Napier, and Caleb Rath were named to the Benton All-Tournament Team.

The Regional Tournament was held in Thomas Gymnasium. The Panthers had the home-court advantage. After defeating Gorham, the Panthers won a decisive victory over the Trico team. The Panthers were awarded their 14th Regional Title in 15 years.

"March Madness" came into full swing during the Sectional games held in Sparta. The Panthers first game was against the Waterloo Gibault Hawks. After an exciting game, the Panthers came out on top, 55-45. The next night Coach Dick Corn and his "Powerful Panthers" had to face the Waltonville Spartans. The Panthers played hard, but suffered defeat nonetheless. Chris McGranahan recorded an all-time Panther high of 47 three-pointers in one season.

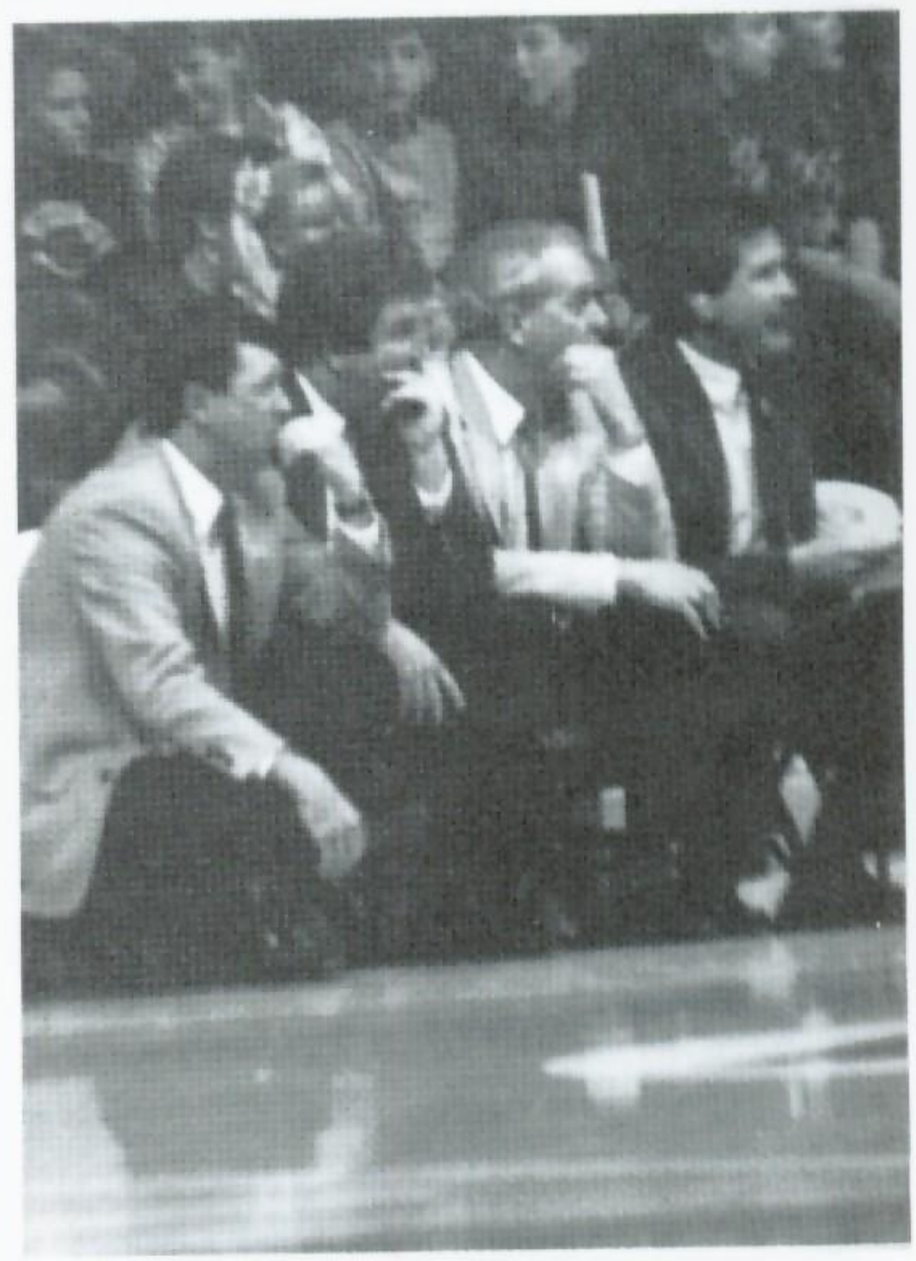
List of Individual Awards

M.V.P. — Mike Napier
Most Improved — Mark Doerflein
Best Defensive — Bill Doerflein
Most Rebounds — Caleb Rath and Wes Sroka
Best Free Throw % — Chris McGranahan
Most Assists — Mike Napier

1991

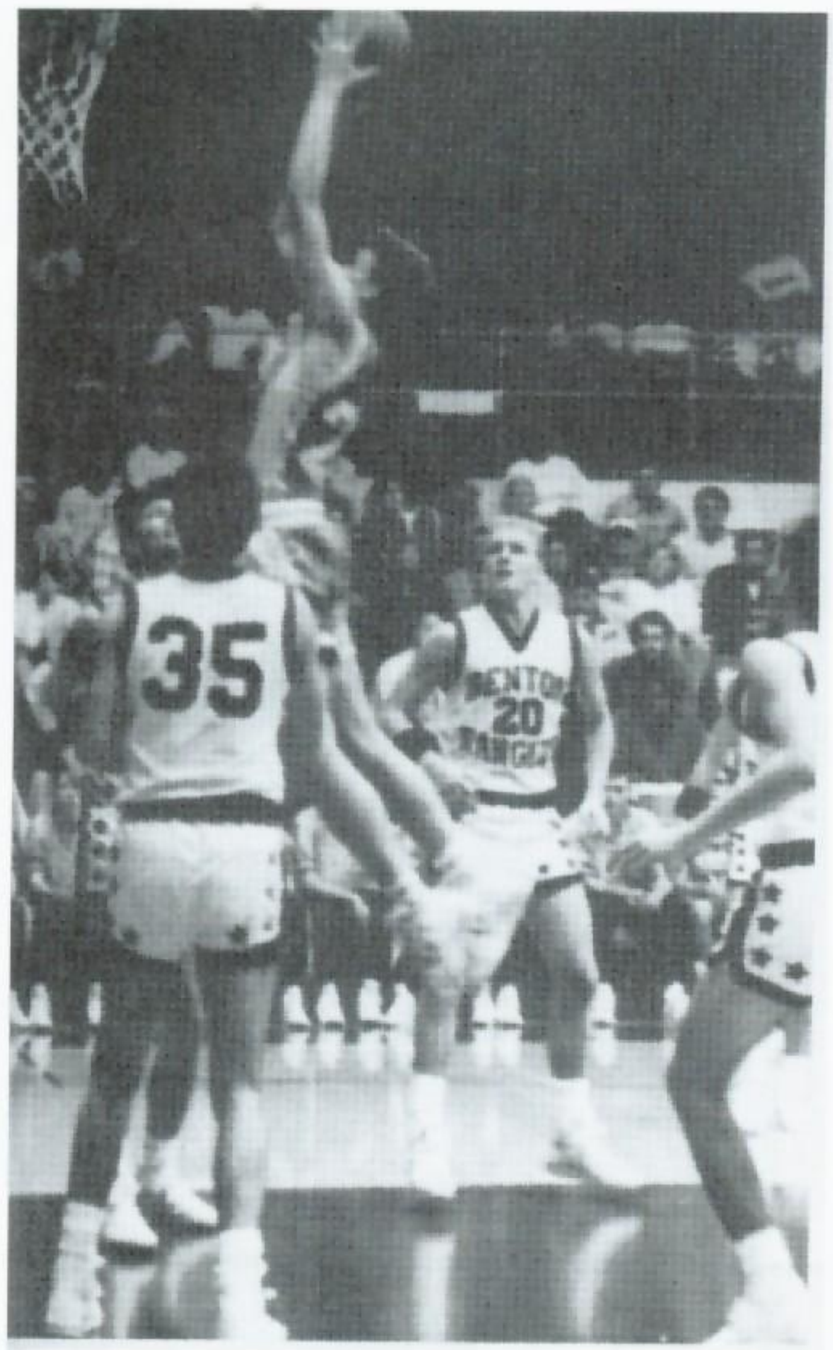
Panthers Finish 20-8, Share Conference Crown

Second place hardware in the Class A Holiday Tournament belongs to the Panthers.

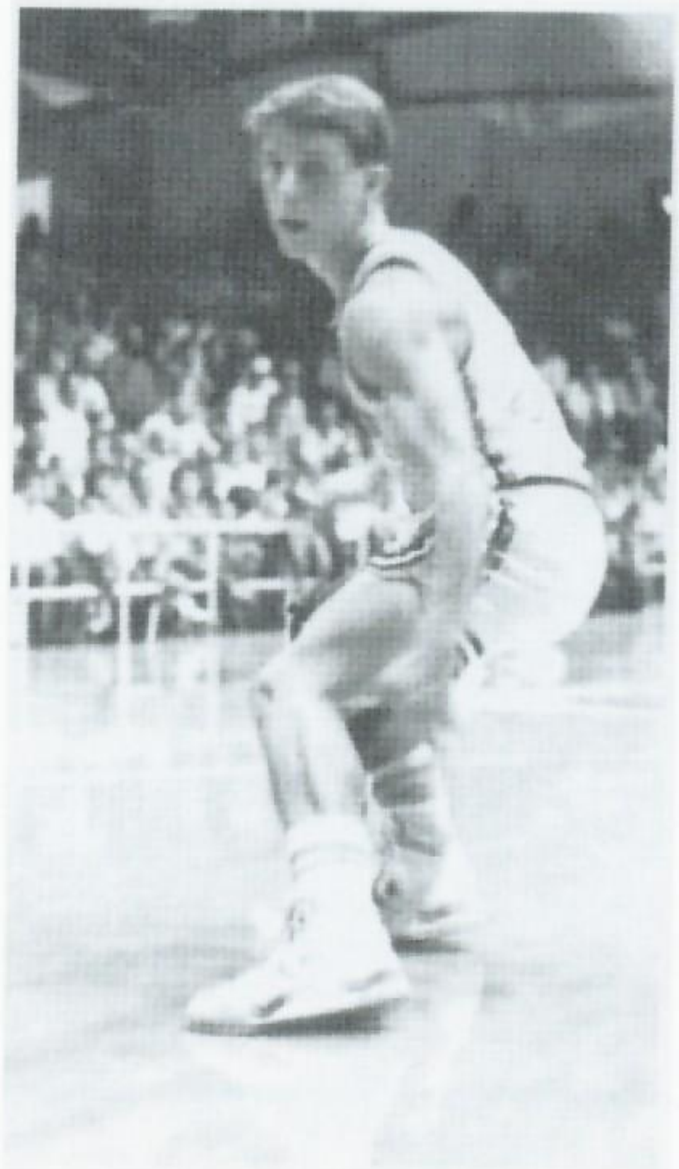


Panther coaching staff contemplates next move in Thomas Gym.

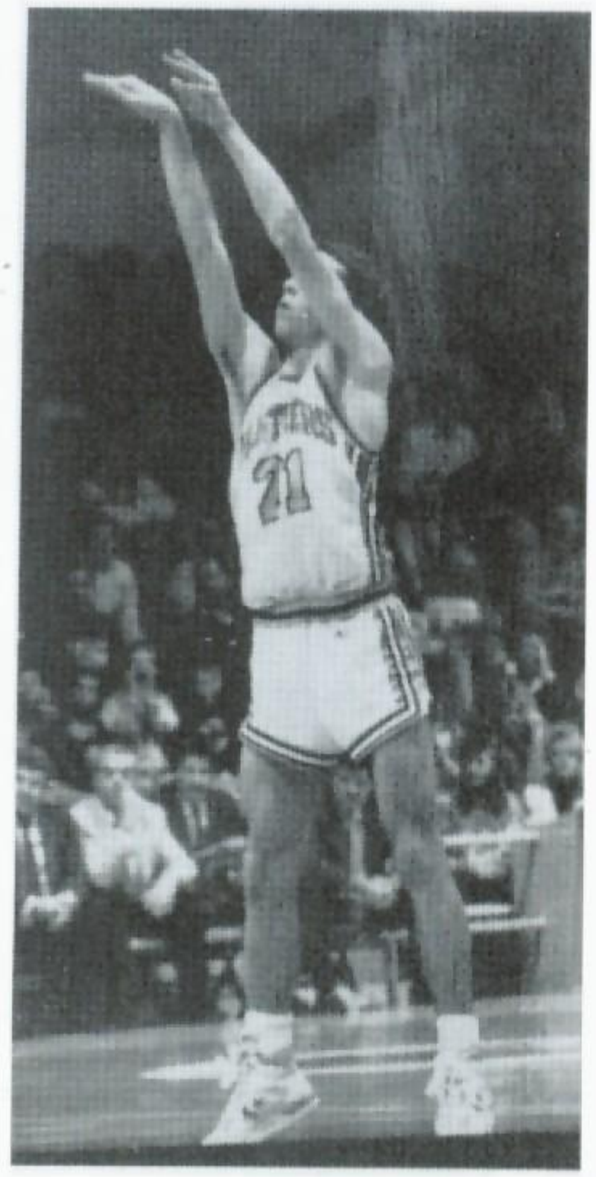
Team Leaders Gain Awards



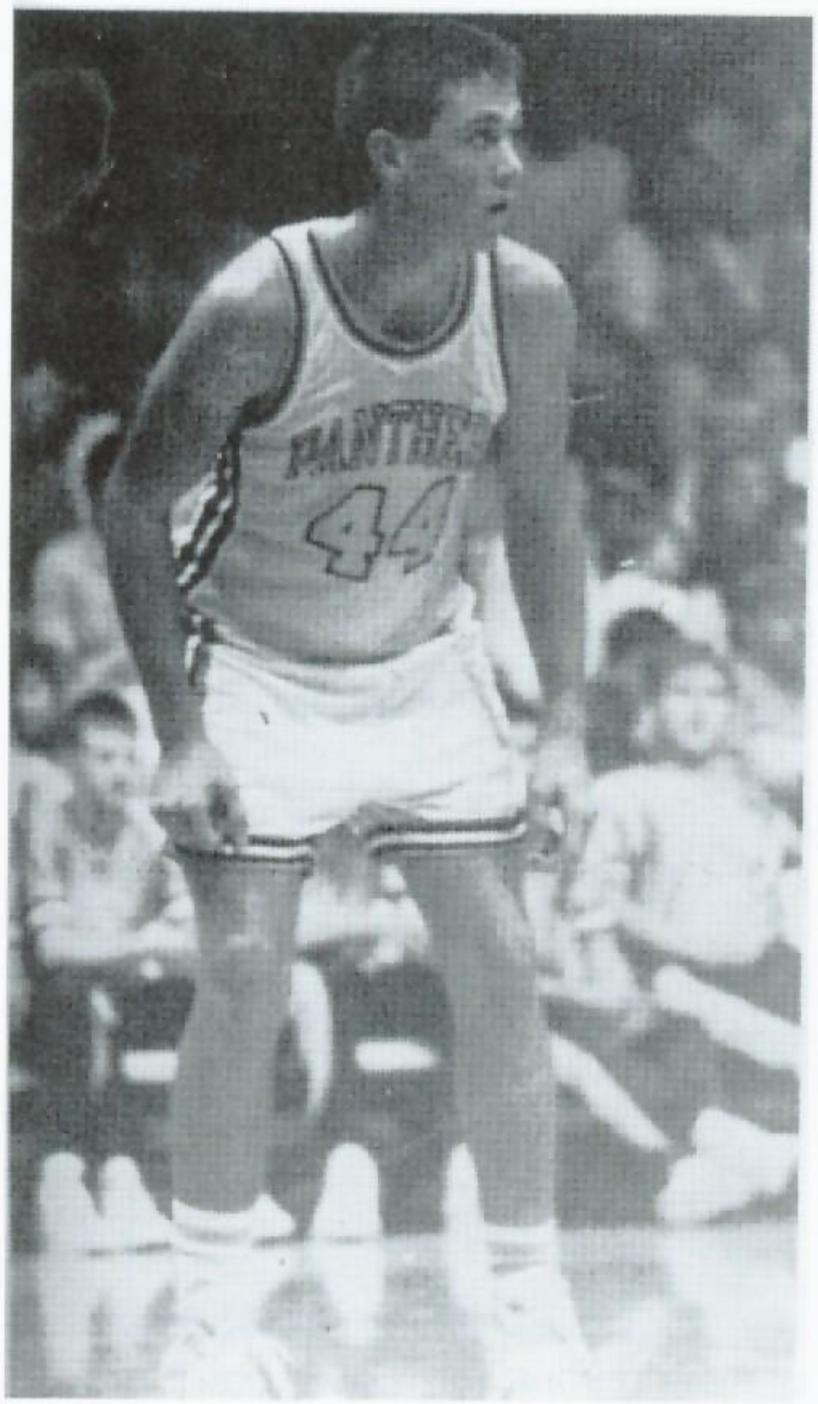
Mark Doerflein "skies" over Benton.



"Foggy" plays tough D against Gibault.

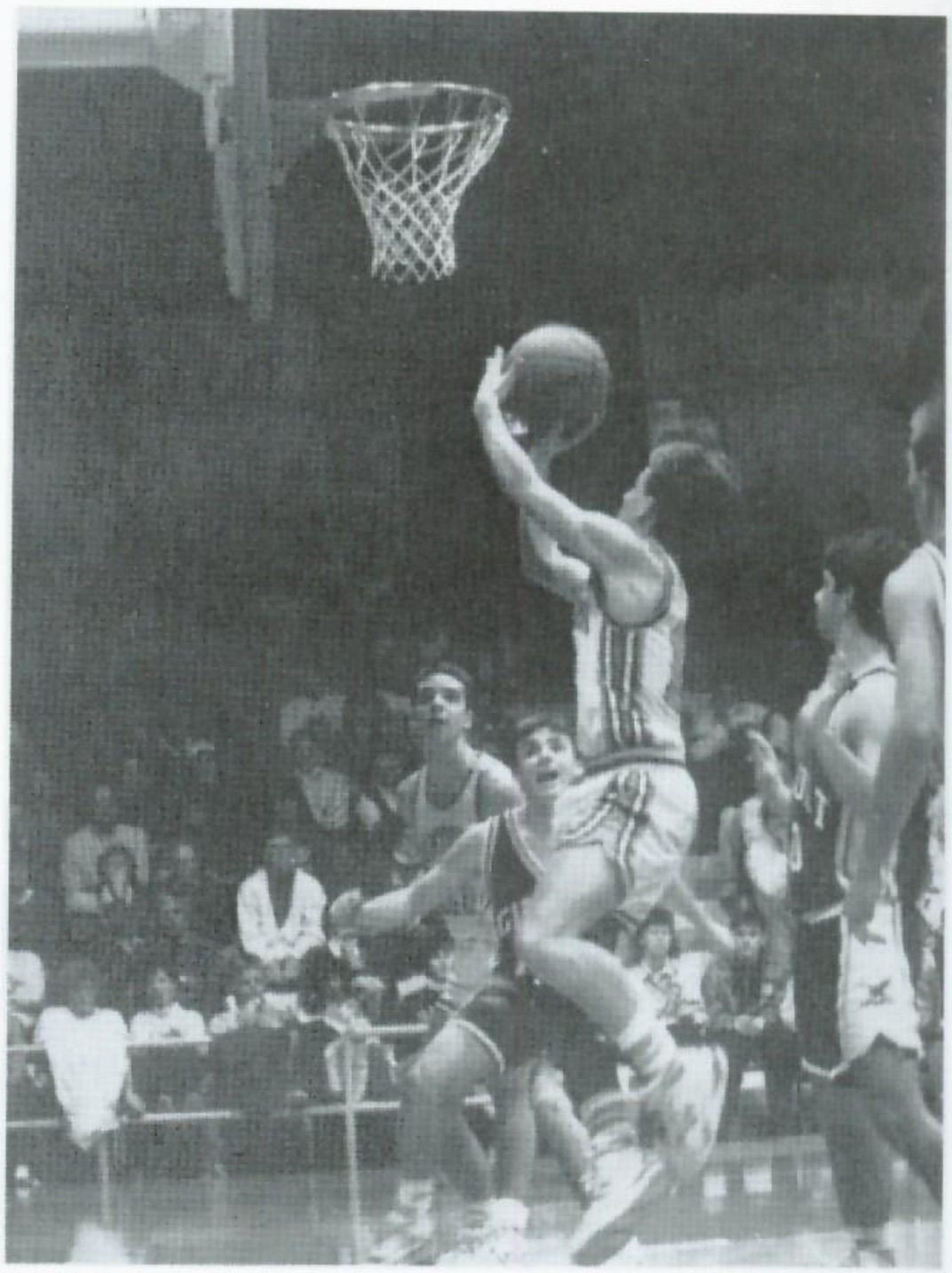


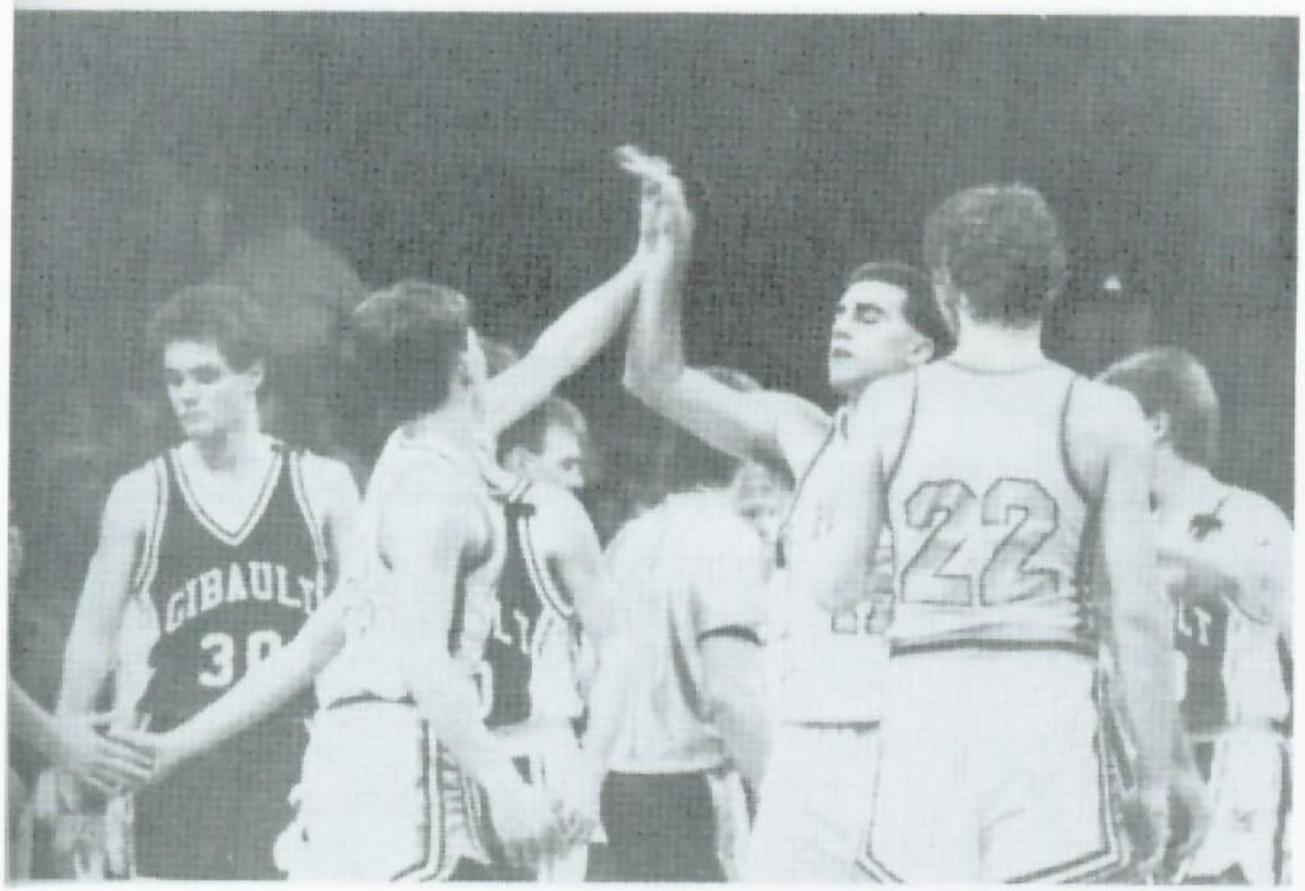
Shane shows team leading form.



Derek Cleland studies shooter and gets good position.

Scott Sumner's slam electrifies the crowd and seals victory in regular season finale against DuQuoin.





Panther Leaders

Mark Doerflein — Most Valuable Player
Scott Sumner — Most Improved Player
Brian Fagerland — Best Defensive
Mark Doerflein — Most Rebounds
Shane Hawkins — Best Free Throw %
Derek Cleland — Most Assists

Mark Doerflein: All-Conference
Caleb Rath: All-Conference, All-South
All-Tournament at Benton
Honorable Mention All-State (AP, UPI, IBCA, *Sun Times*)
Shane Hawkins: All-Conference, All-South
All-Tournament at Benton
All-Tournament at Carbondale
and Class A Most Valuable Player

1992

Panthers Finish 22-8; Undefeated Conference And Regional Champs

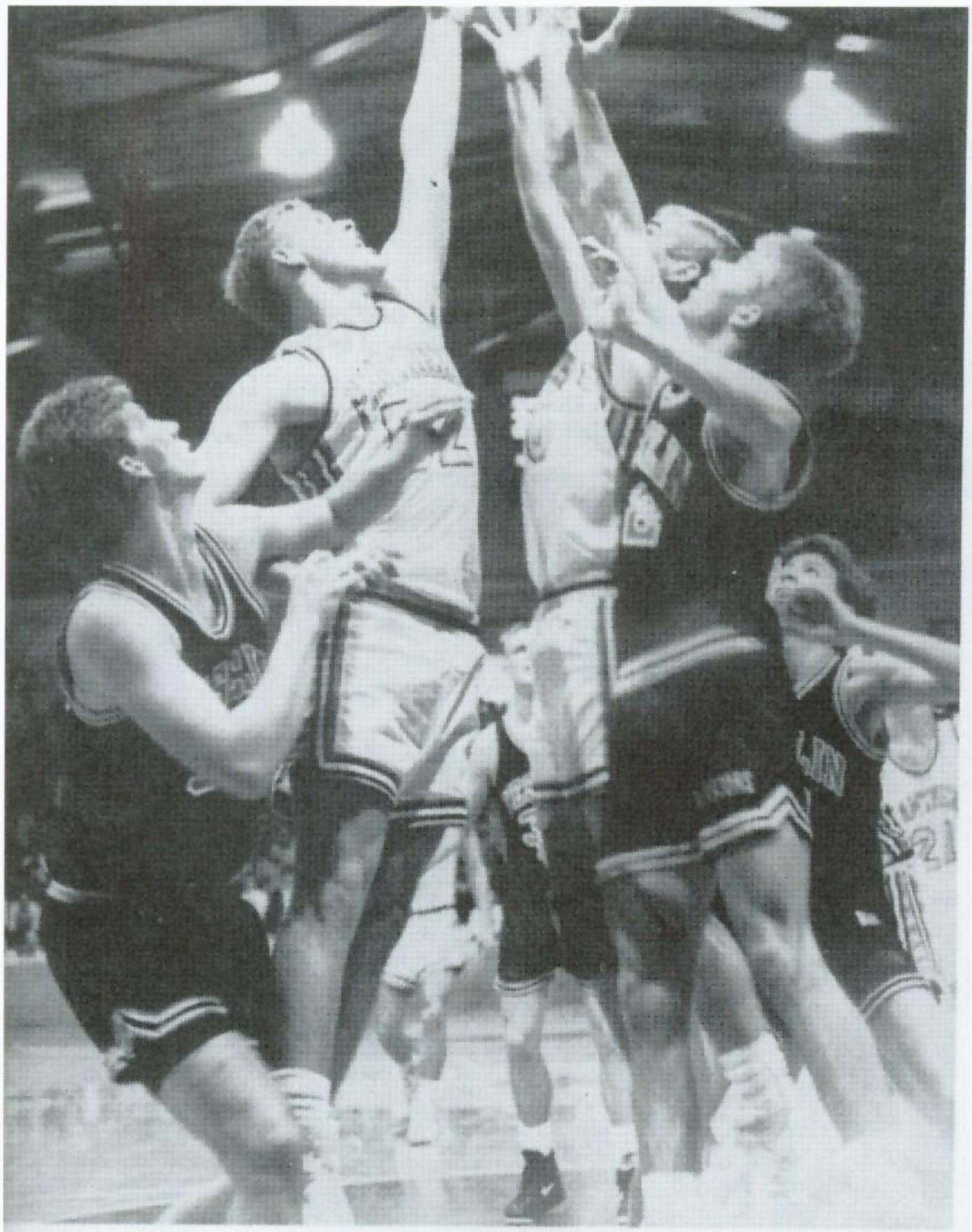
Senior transfer student Shay Wiggs posts up against Carlyle.

"Best Defensive Player" Tom Jausel rebounds in Sectional Quarterfinal victory over Waterloo Gibault.

Panthers toughen defense against Cairo in the Benton Tournament.

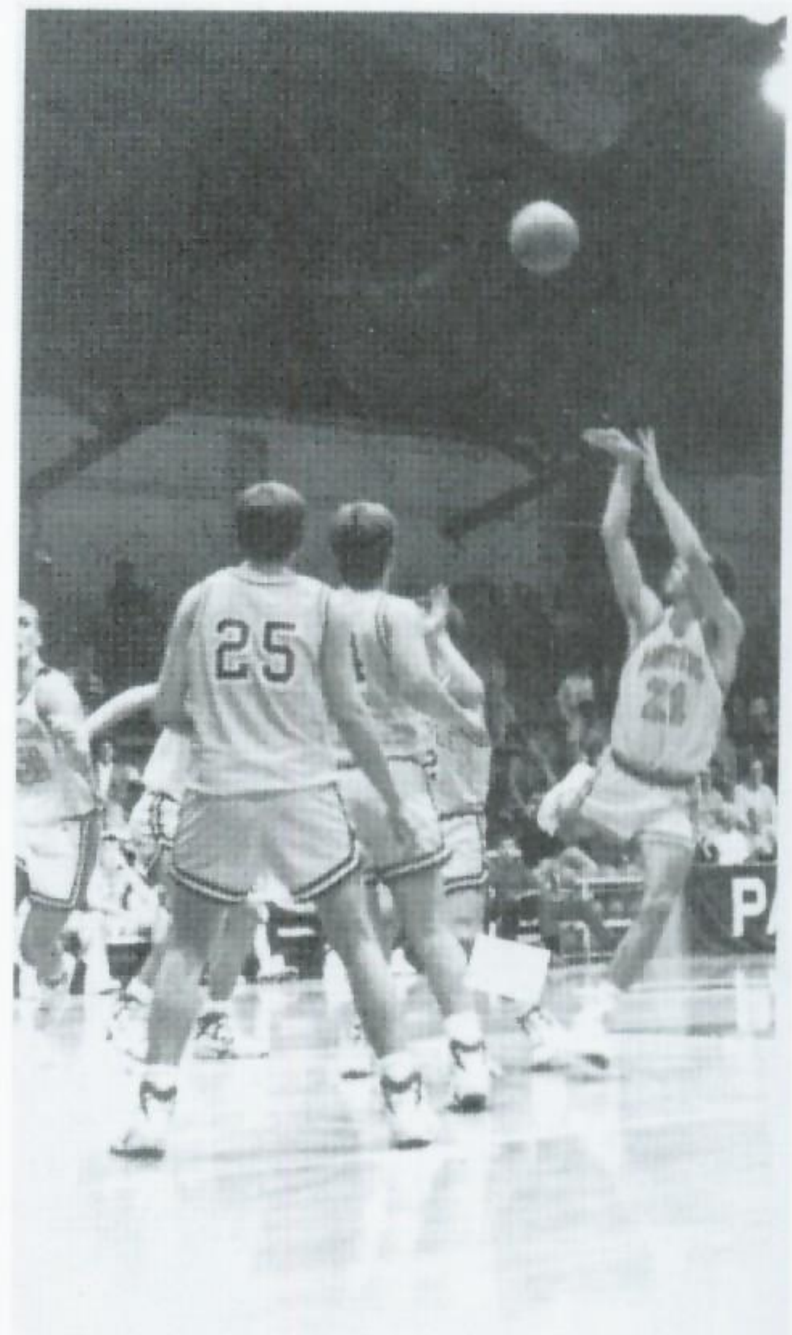
Team Leaders

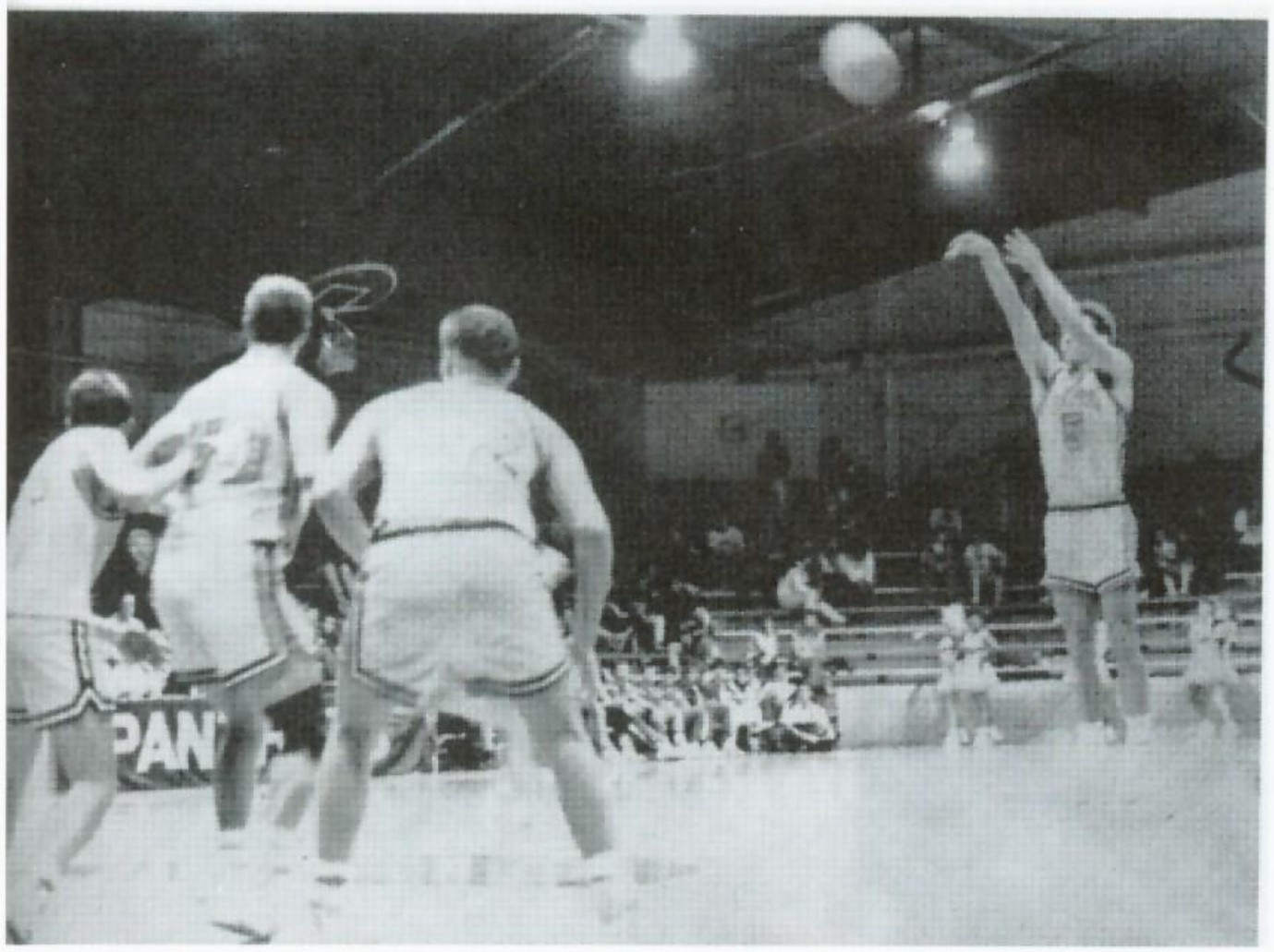
Leading Scorer	Shane Hawkins
Leading Rebounder	Shay Wiggs
Most Assists	Tim Schweizer
Best FT Percentage	Shane Hawkins



Danny Smith and Shay Wiggs battle Wesclin in Super Fan Shoot Out.

Shane Hawkins hits an off balance jumper from "in the paint."





Team/Individual Awards

Best Defensive Player	Tom Jausel
Most Improved Player	Nathan Kellerman
Most Improved Player	Danny Smith
Most Valuable Player	Shane Hawkins

Shay Wiggs — All SWEC Conference
All-Tournament Benton
Newton High School All-Star Game

Shane Hawkins — All SWEC Conference
All-Tournament Benton
All-Tournament Carbondale
All-State Honorable Mention
IBCA All-State Team

Panthers continue their undefeated conference record with a close win at Nashville.

A victory over Trico nets the Panthers a regional championship at DuQuoin.

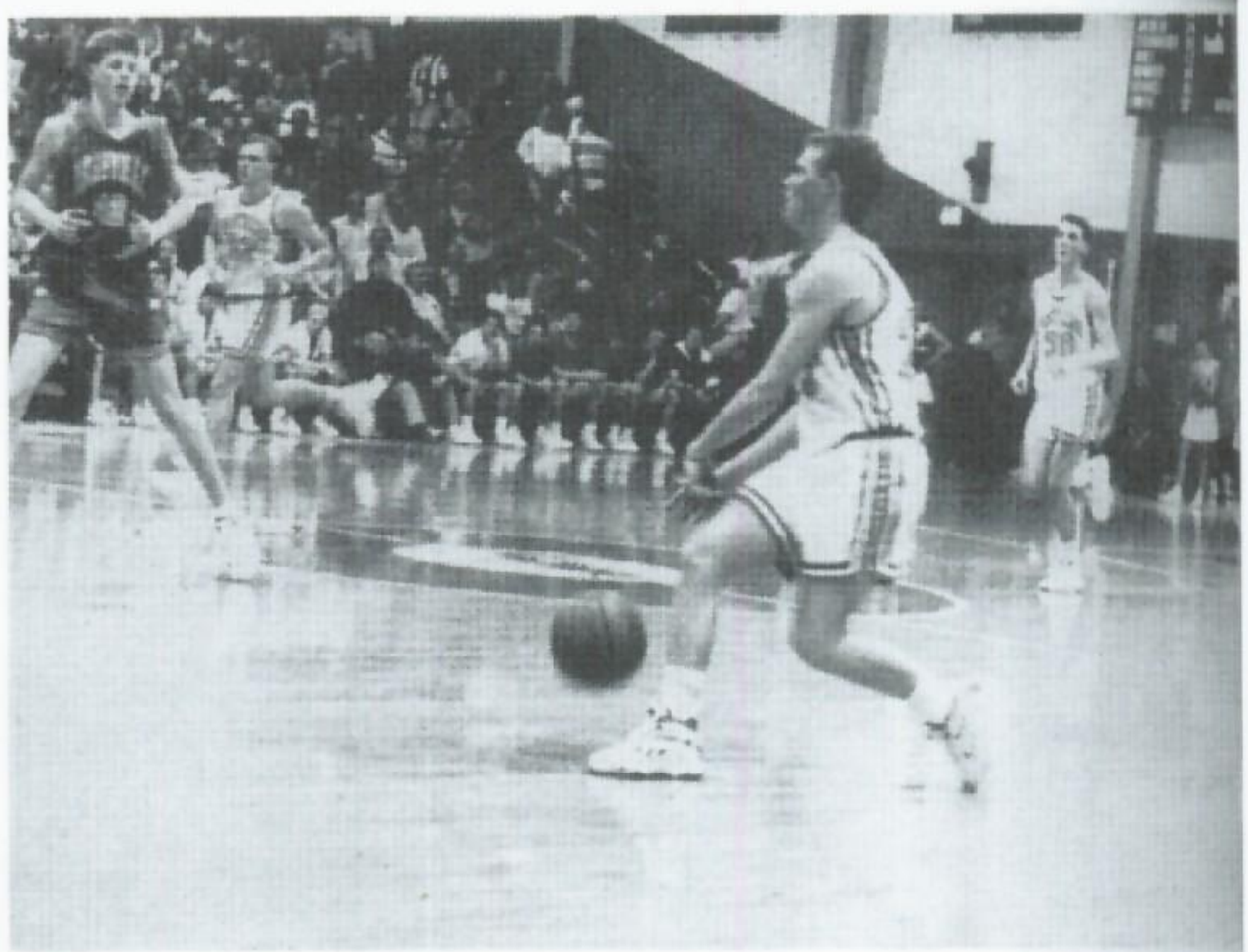
Coach Corn gives careful instructions during a time-out.

Over 250 people honored the team at the Sunday afternoon basketball banquet.

1993

SWEC Undefeated
Conference Champs
Benton Tourney Champs
Carbondale Holiday
Tournament
Class A Champs
Regional Champions
Sectional Finalists

Here come the PANTHERS!!!



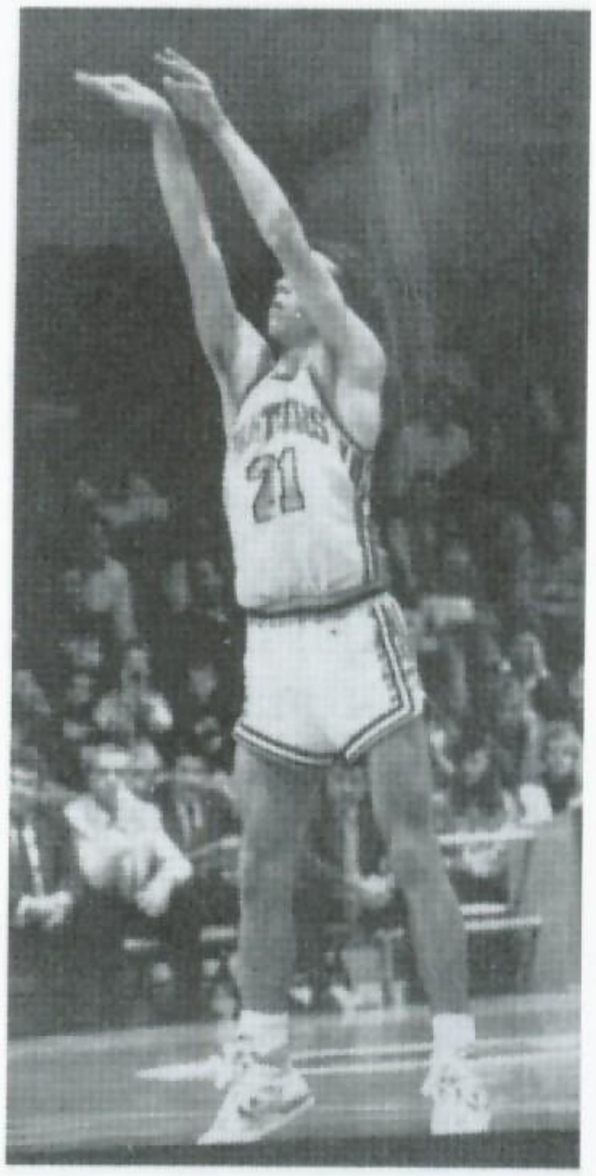
All-Stater Shane Hawkins takes the ball down the floor.

Darin Clarke handles the ball in the Sectional Final.

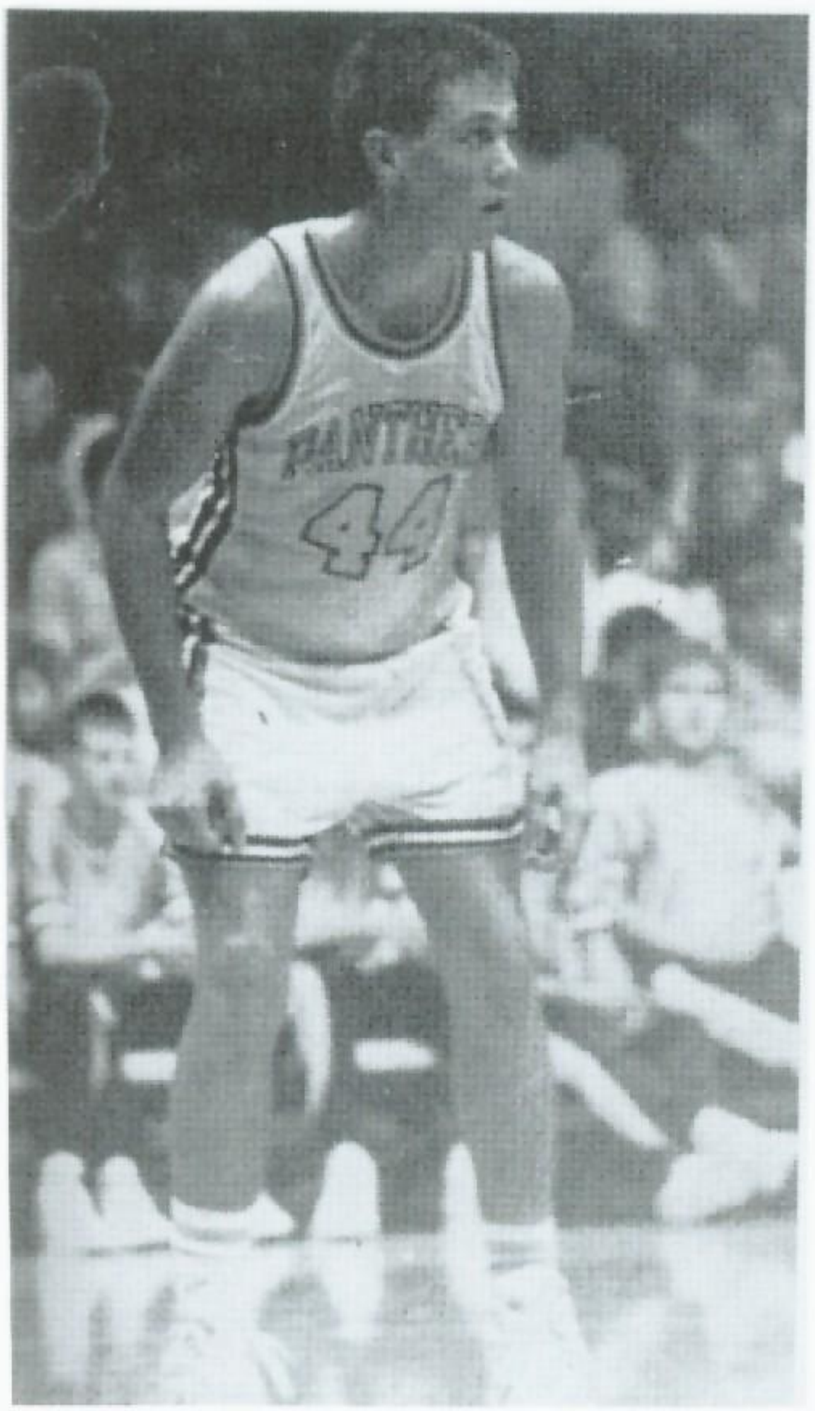
1992-1993 Varsity Basketball Team.

Mark Doerflein "skies" over Benton.

"Foggy" plays tough D against Gibault.



Shane shows team leading form.



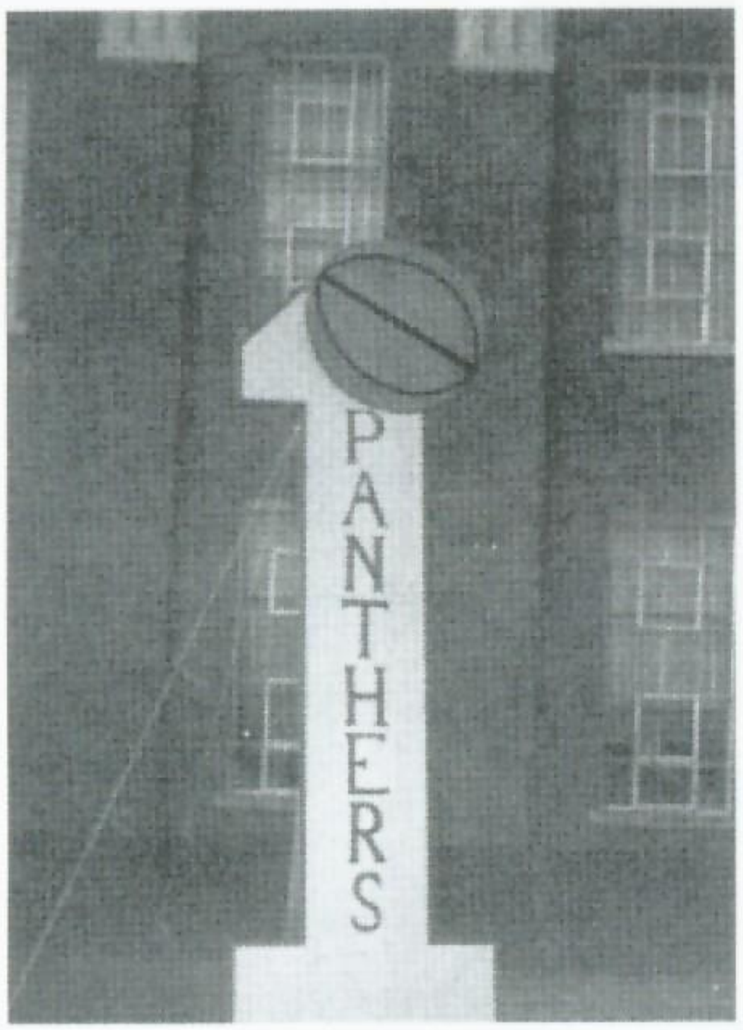
Derek Cleland studies shooter and gets good position.

Scott Sumner's slam electrifies the crowd and seals victory in regular season finale against DuQuoin.

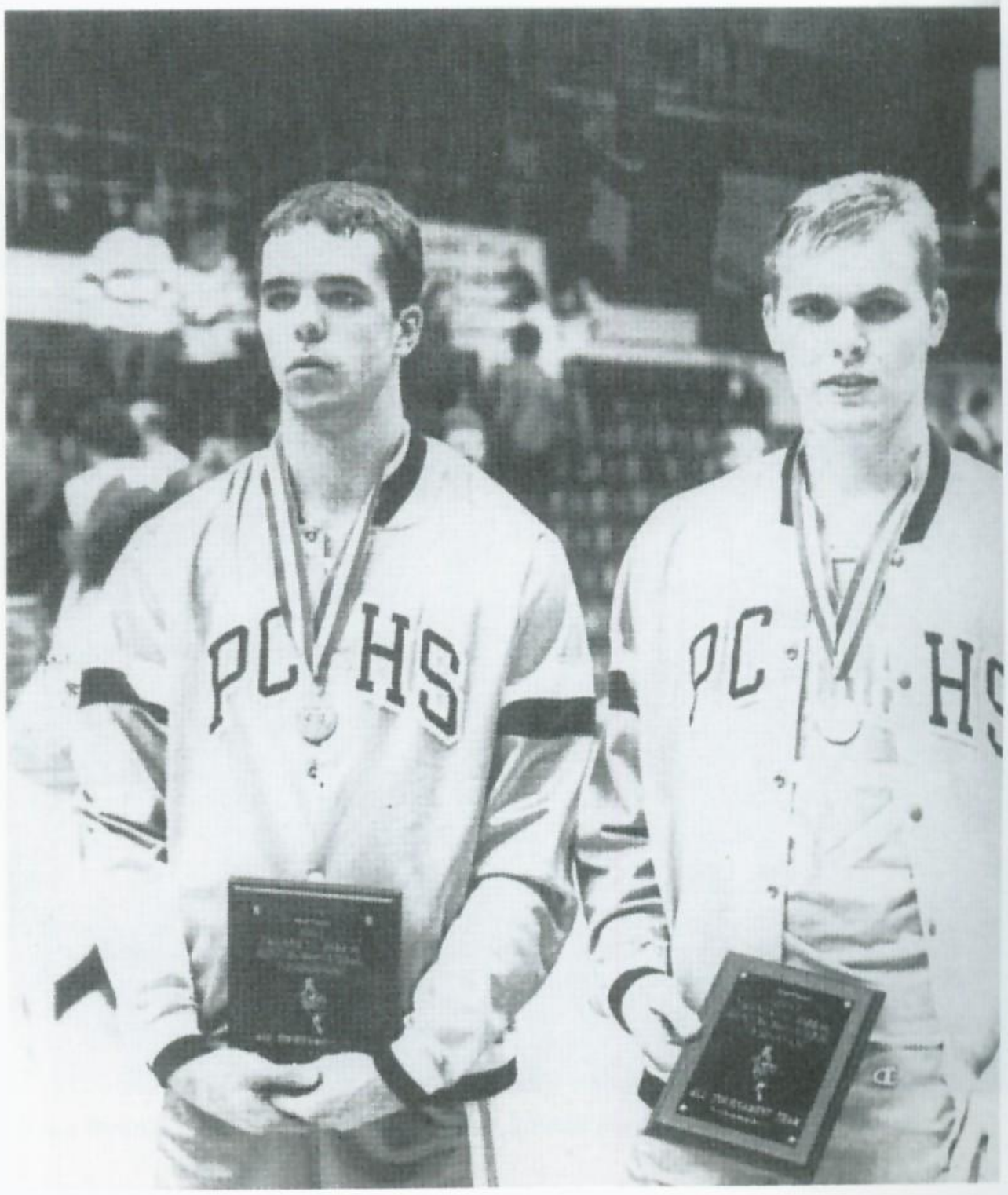
Scoreboard

PCHS		OPPONENT
67	Meridian	51
77	Benton	62
69	Sparta	47
80	Chester	44
66	DuQuoin	39
81	Herrin	60
55	Anna-Jonesboro	43
	CARBONDALE TOURNAMENT	
82	Carbondale B	45
74	Carterville	57
65	Massac County	60
56	Springfield	60
51	Murphysboro	42
43	Carlyle	41
62	Nashville	51
51	Sparta	34
	BENTON TOURNAMENT	
58	Carlyle	37
66	Okawville	54
53	McLeansboro	49
62	Cairo	49
74	Benton	45
71	Petersburg Porta	63
58	Waterloo Gibault	57
76	Chester	61
57	Anna-Jonesboro	29
48	Murphysboro	43
66	Nashville	53
62	DuQuoin	48
	SPARTA REGIONAL	
60	Steeleville	55
71	DuQuoin	54
	NASHVILLE SECTIONAL	
82	Waltonville	54
58	Okawville	67

The Panthers celebrate their Benton Invitational Tournament championship. Shane Hawkins and Danny Smith were named to the All-Tournament Team.



The Panthers held the #1 ranking in the state throughout the "Season of Dreams."



VI. The 1994 State Championship

1994

Varsity: *Coach Mike Cheek, Coach Tom Hawkins, Matt Decker, Mark Radake, Jeremy Johnston, Kevin Kellerman, Ryan Eisenhauer, Shane McGranahan, Garrison Rule, Coach Wes Choate, Head Coach Dick Corn, Mgr. Kory Shute, Shane Hawkins, Ryan Bruns, Anson Konkel, An Dagner, Jarritt Sommer, Brett Cleland, Mgr. Danny Mathis, Towel Girl Cynthia Hardin.*

Team Leaders and Awards

Most Valuable Player	*Shane Hawkins*
Most Improved Player	*Jarritt Sommer*
Best Defensive Player	*Ryan Bruns / Matt Decker*
Best Free Throw %	*Brett Cleland*
Leading Rebounder	*Brett Cleland*
Most Assists	*Shane Hawkins*
Most Points	*Shane Hawkins*

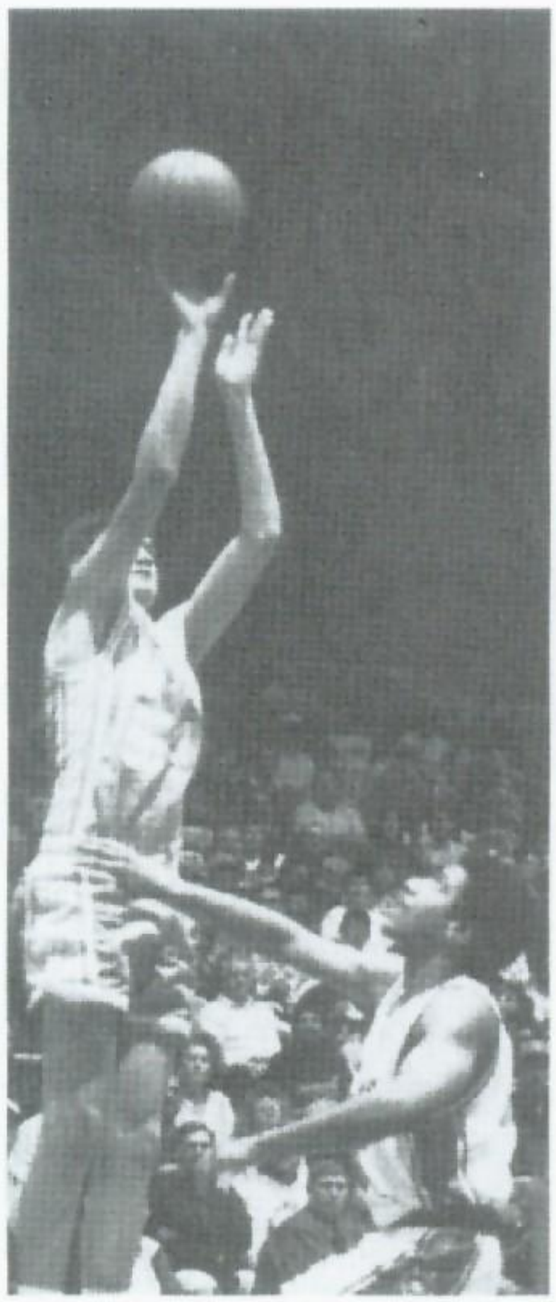
Award Winners: *Ryan Bruns, Brett Cleland, Matt Decker, Shane Hawkins, and Jarritt Sommer.*

ane Hawkins finishes a breakaway slam at arbondale.

Ryan Bruns soars over Cairo for Class A Holiday Tournament Championship.

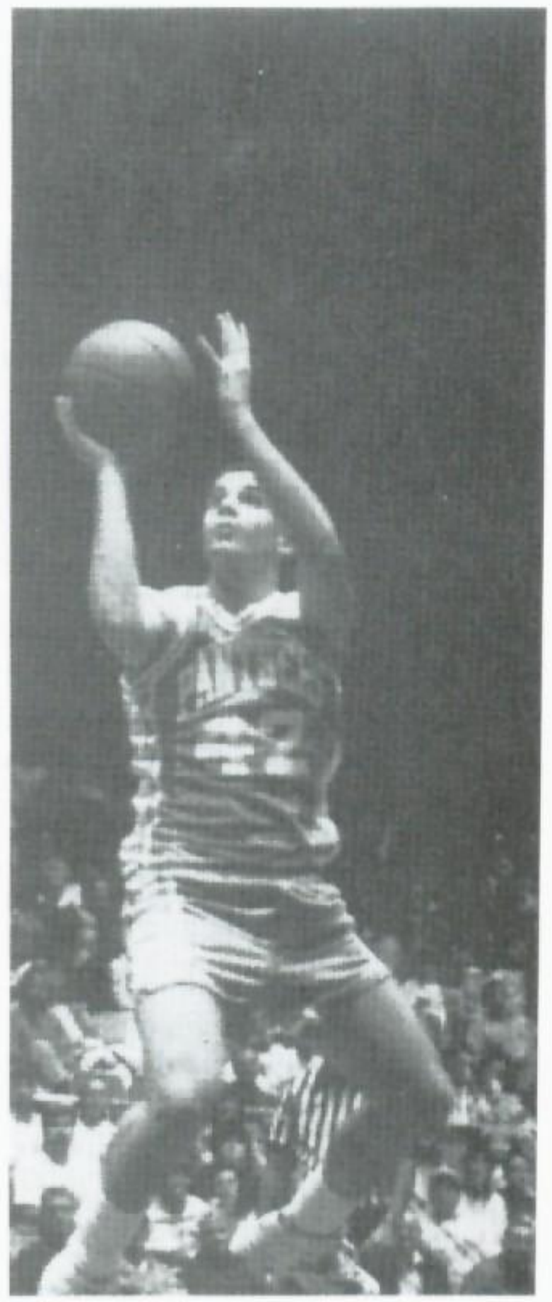
Brett Cleland skies over Wayne City in Sectional victory.

arritt Sommer beats the Pilots with a twelve footer in the Christmas Tourney.



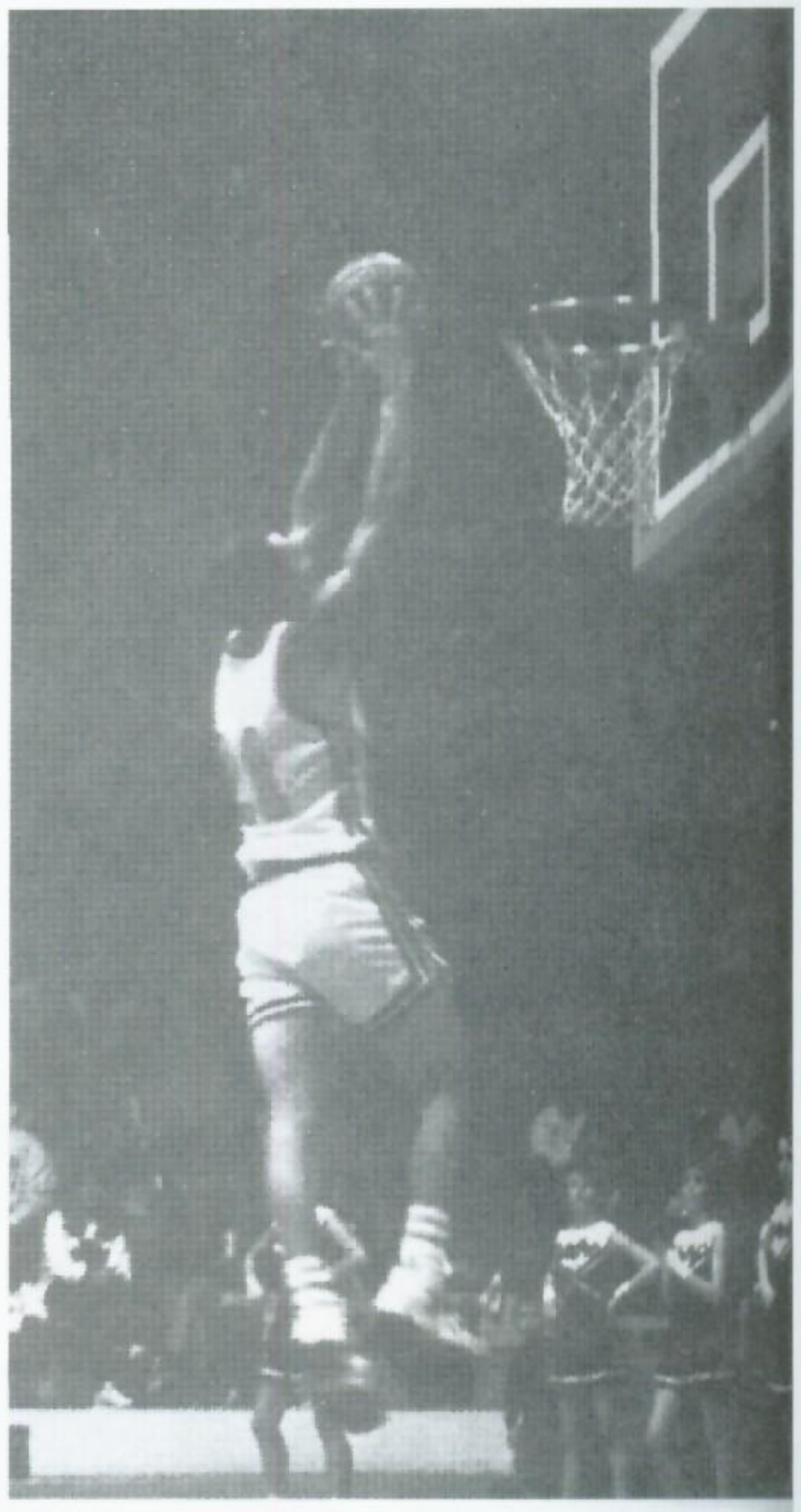
Andrew Dagner leaves his opponent flat-footed for a baseline jumper.

Matt Decker steadies the offense from the wing.



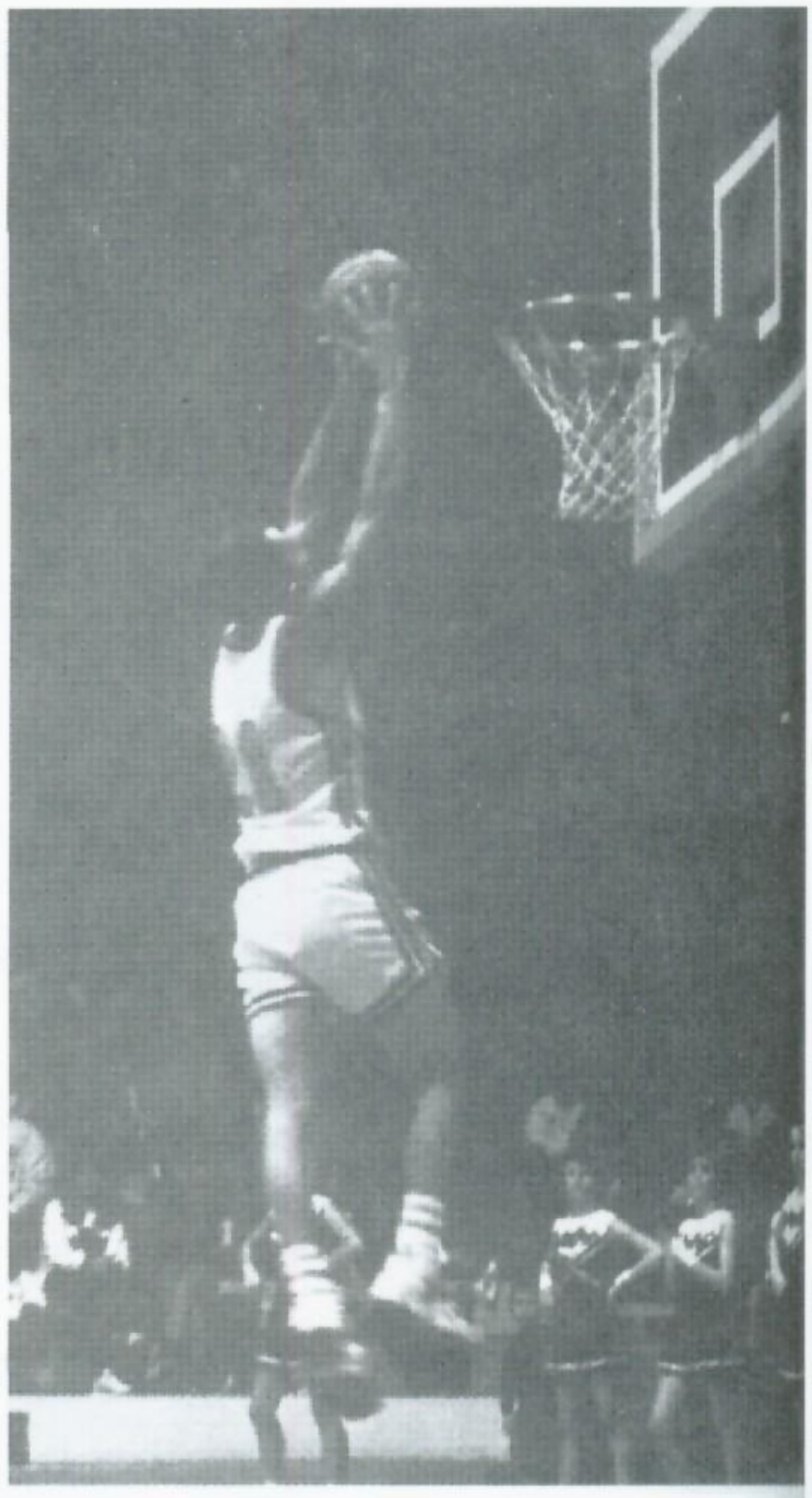
Garrison Rule glides in alone for another basket.

Ryan Bruns puts game ball in place for the Sunday return victory celebration.

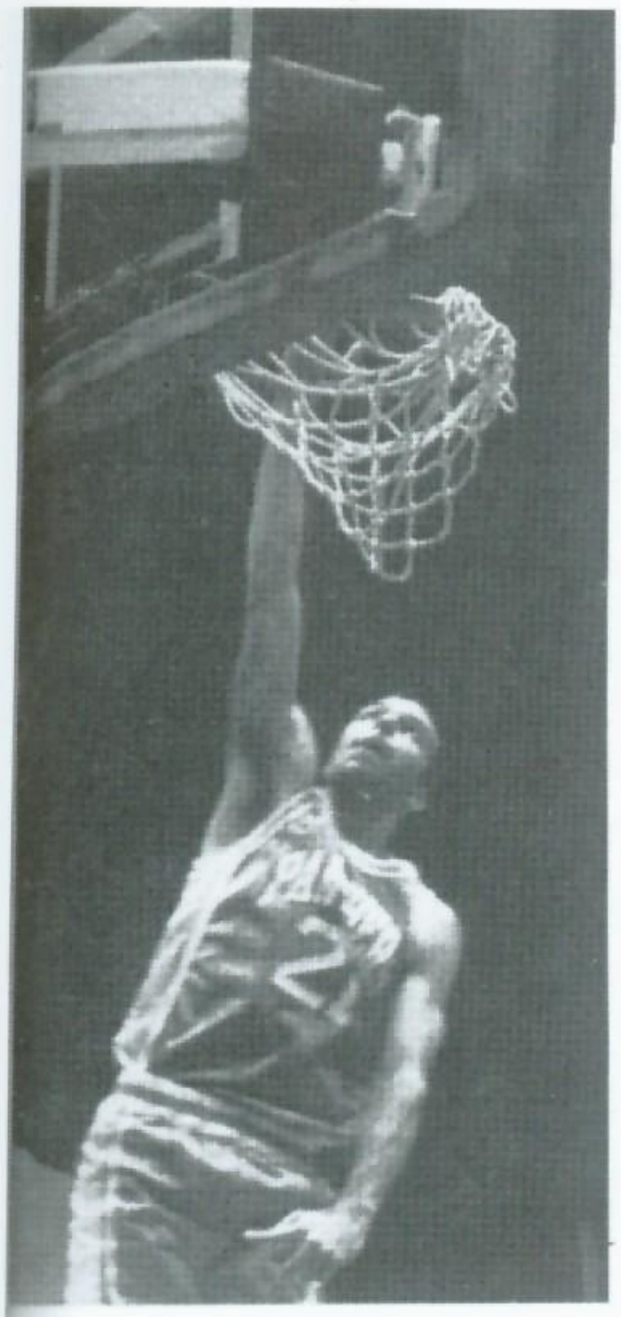


Shane Hawkins delights the Thomas Gym crowd with a two-handed s over DuQuoin.

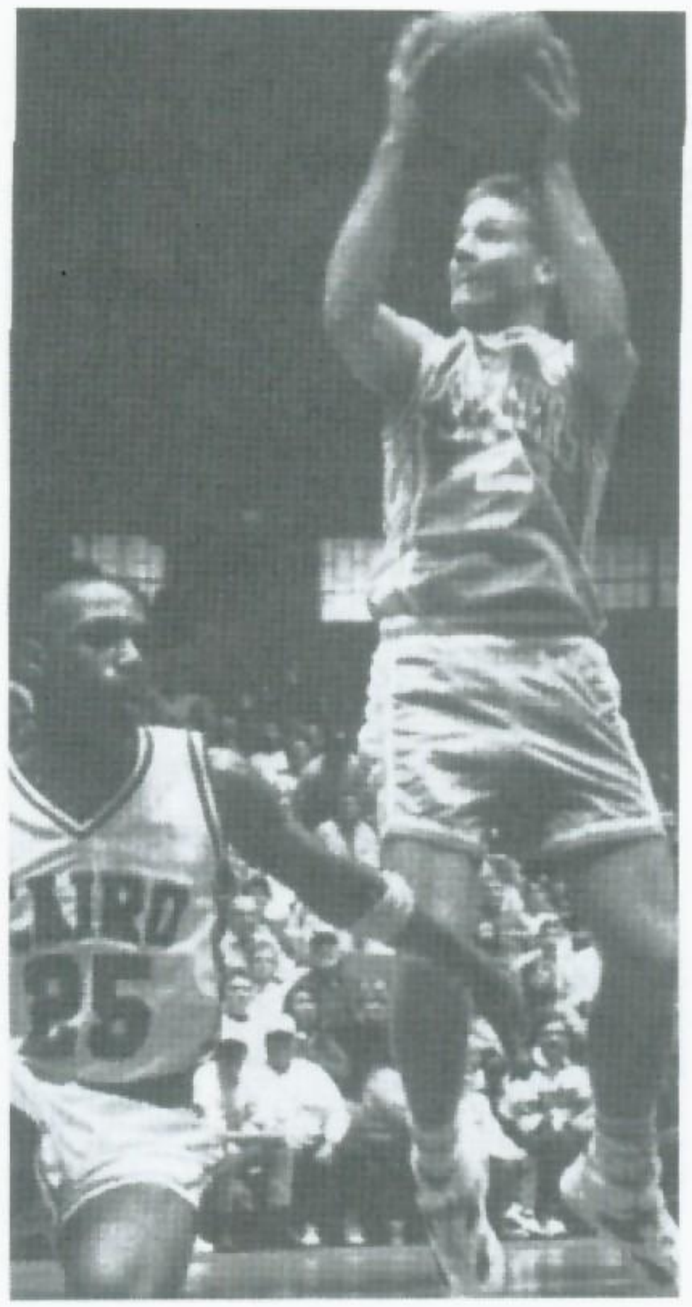
Ryan Bruns puts game ball in place for the Sunday return victory celebration.



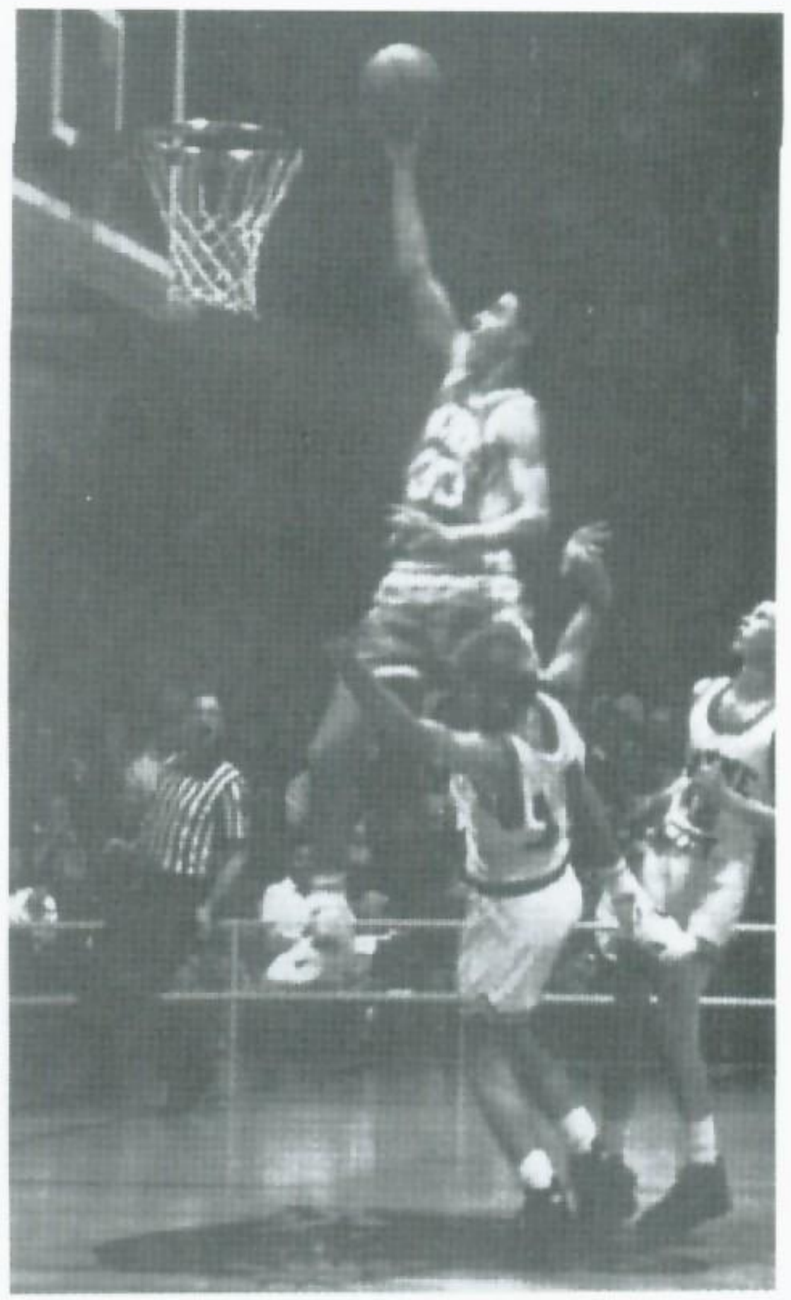
Shane Hawkins delights the Thomas Gym crowd with a two-handed s over DuQuoin.



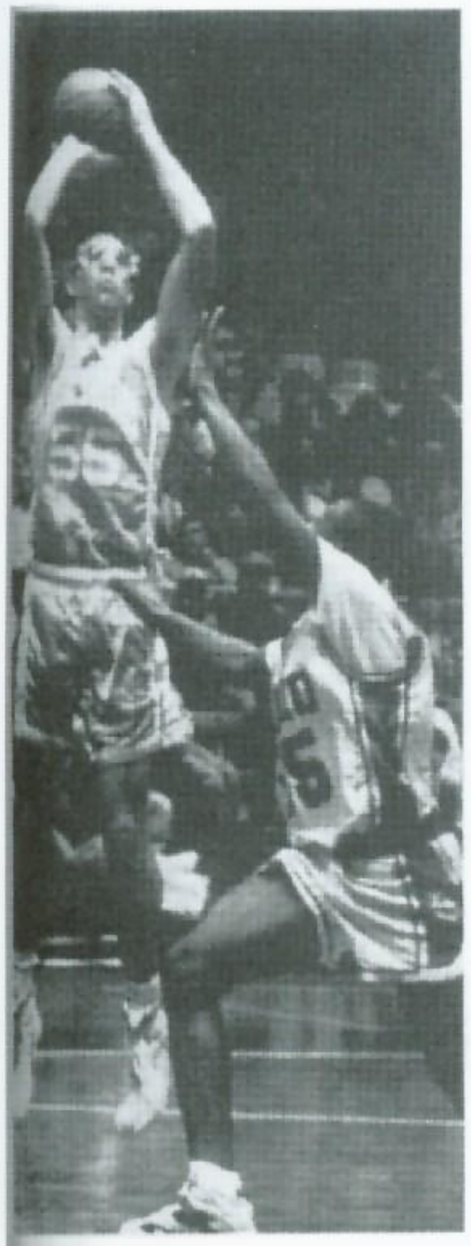
Shane Hawkins finishes a breakaway slam at Carbondale.



Ryan Bruns soars over Cairo for Class A Holiday Tournament Championship.



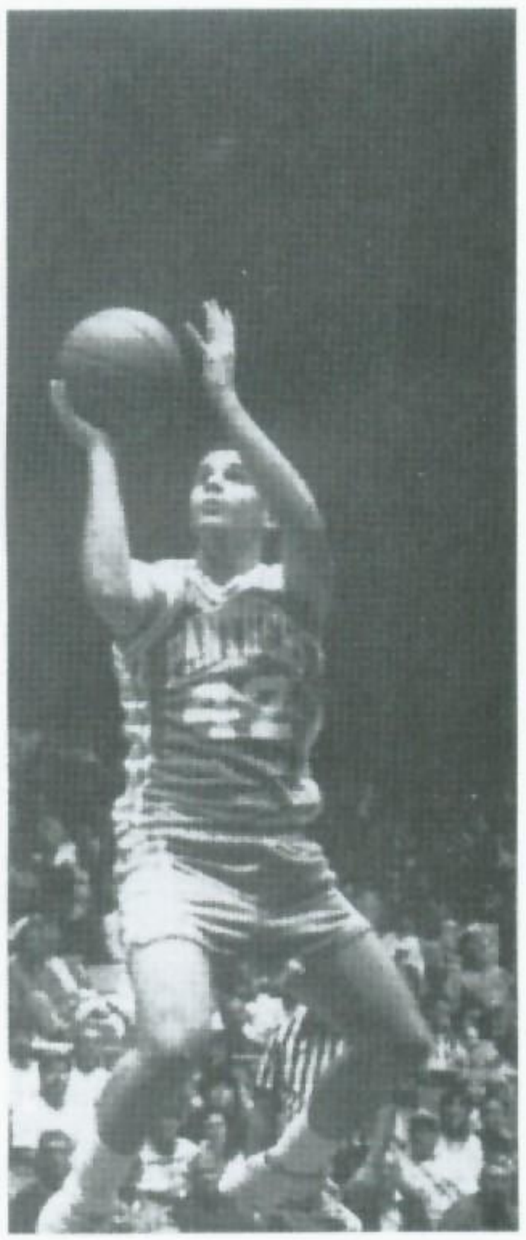
Brett Cleland skies over Wayne City in Sectional victory.



Garritt Sommer beats the Pilots with a twelve footer in the Christmas Tourney.

Andrew Dagner leaves his opponent flat-footed for a baseline jumper.

Matt Decker steadies the offense from the wing.



Garrison Rule glides in alone for another basket.

Dick Corn Inteviewed by Joe Paschen of IHSA TV

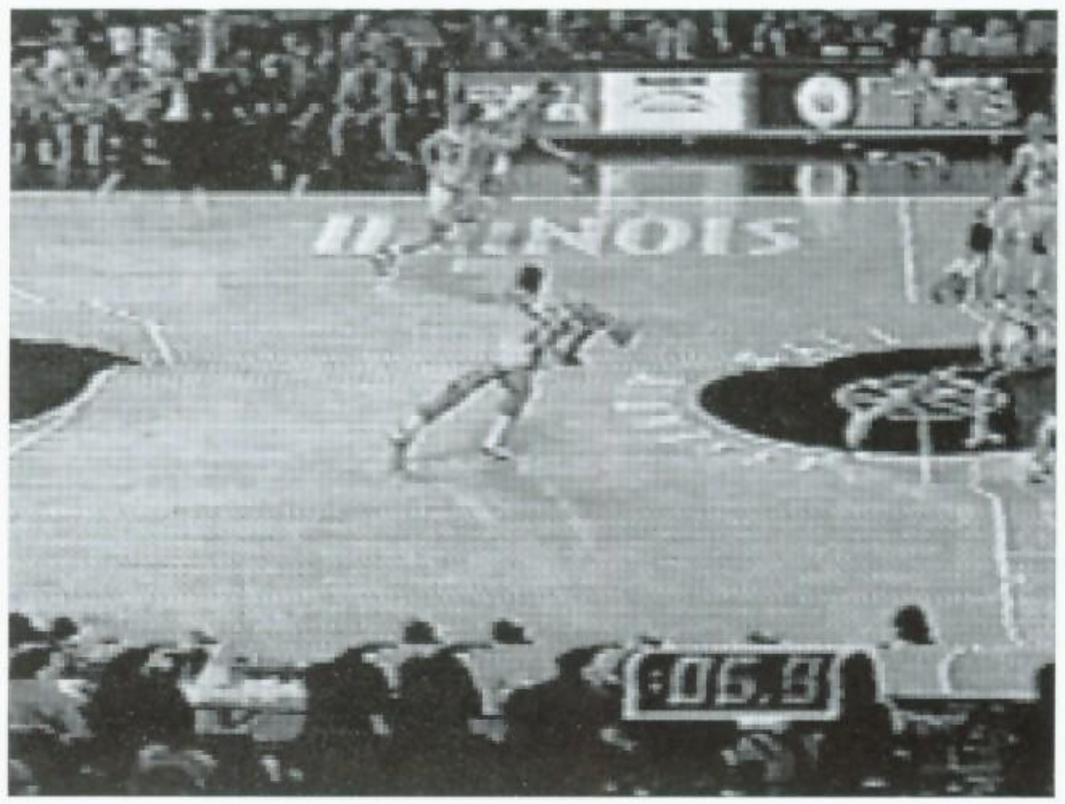
Ryan Bruns scores against Teutopolis in quarterfinal

Panthers show their trophy to the crowd

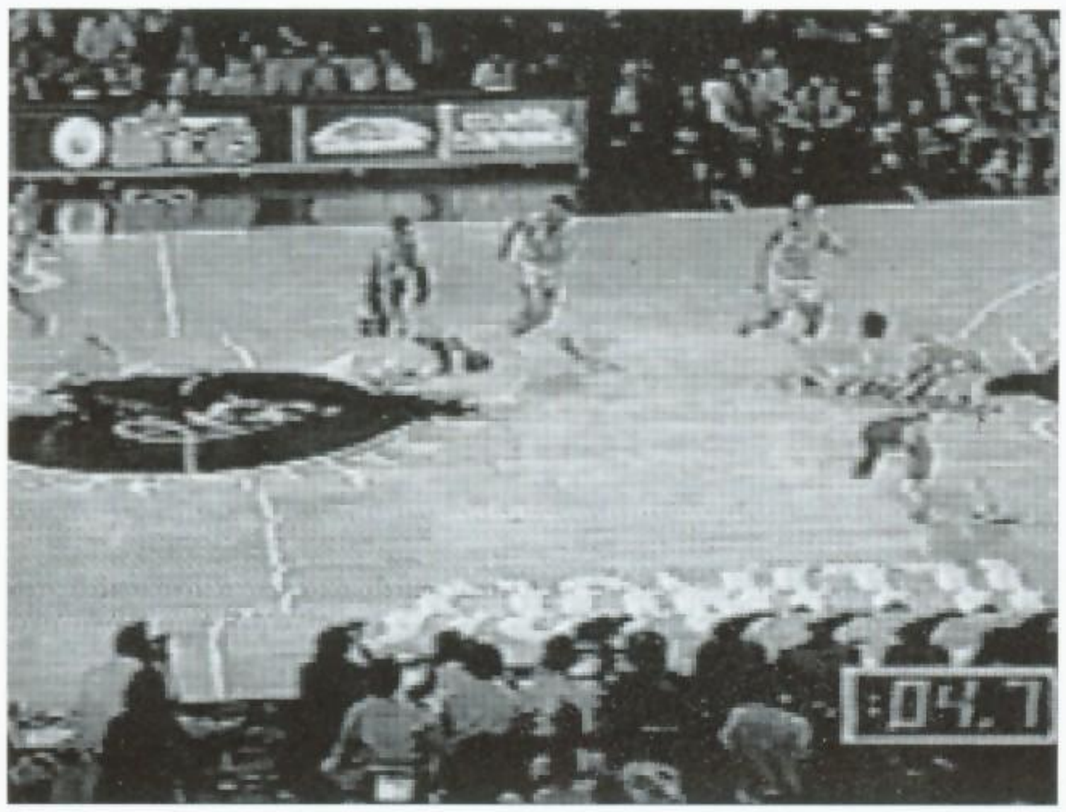
Shane Hawkins on the move

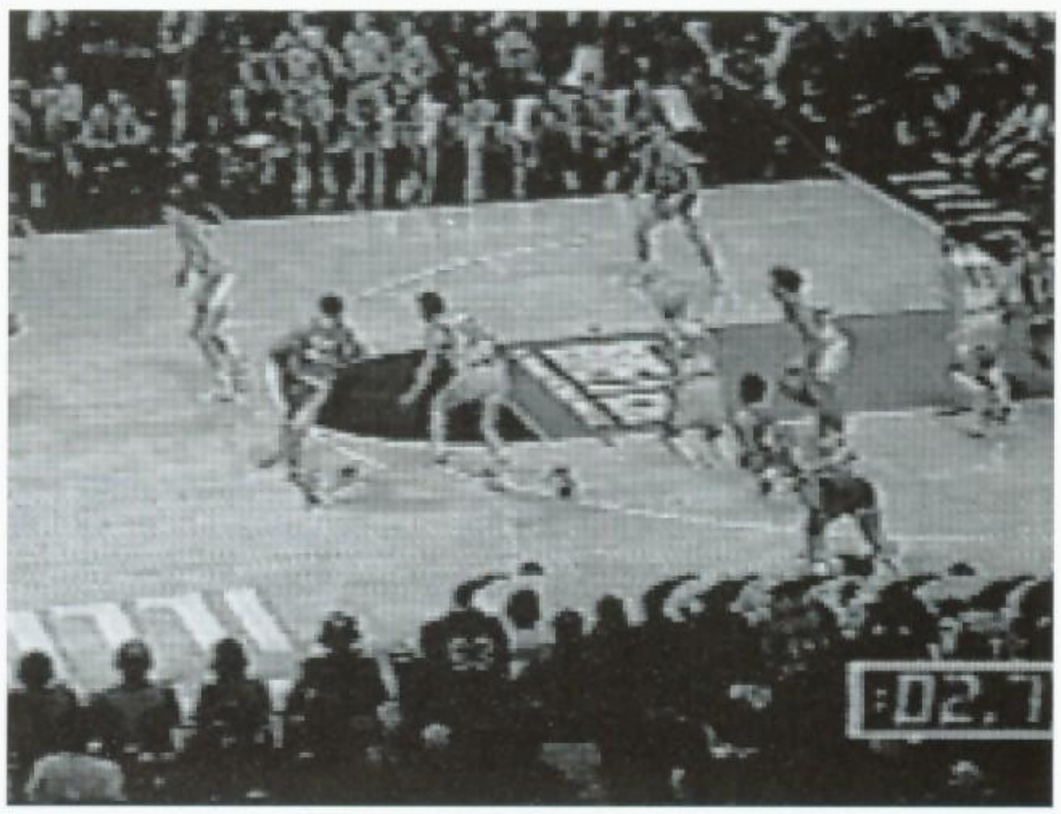
Andrew Dagner

1994 IHSA LAST

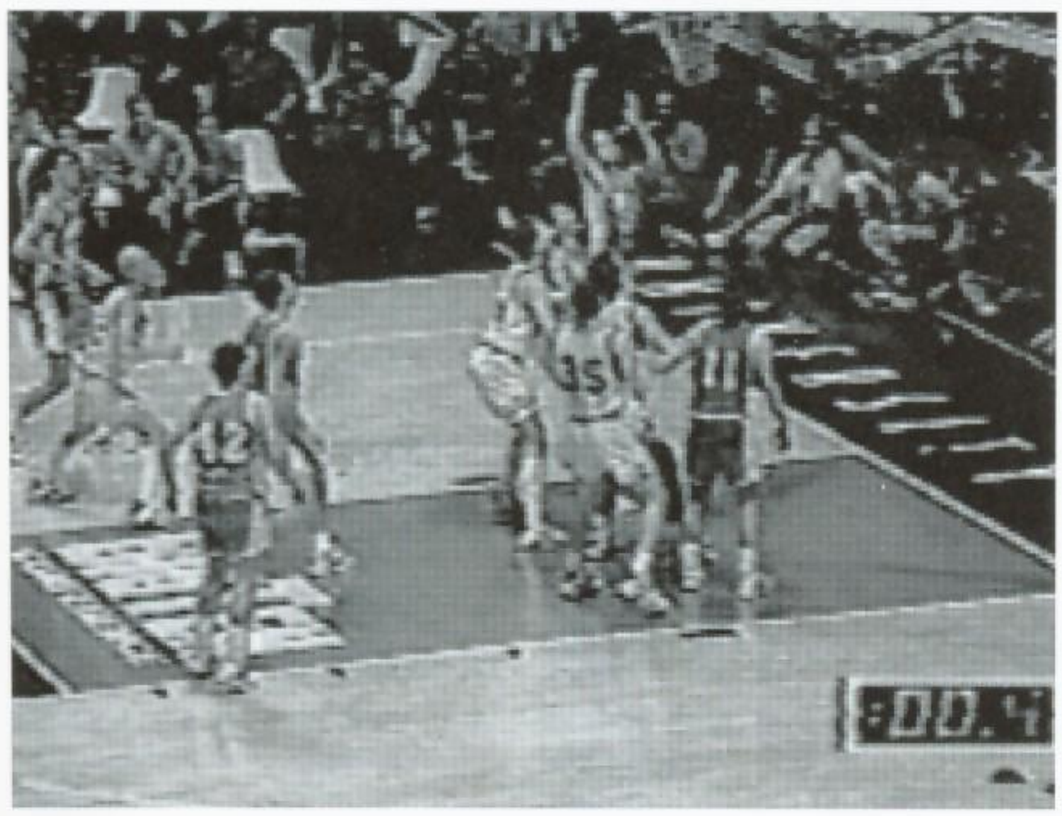


... it still took a ballplayer, in the last few seconds of a long, strenuous game, to find the con-





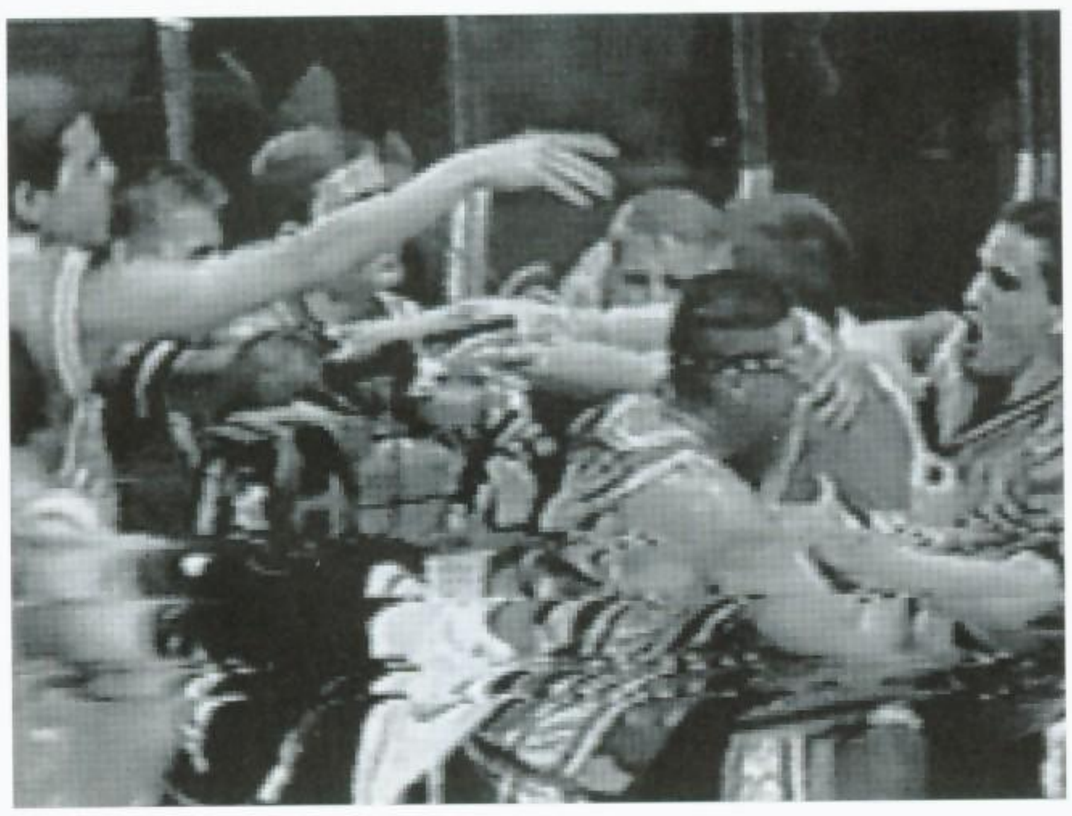
fidence and fortitude that leads them to naturally pass the ball to another player who, with



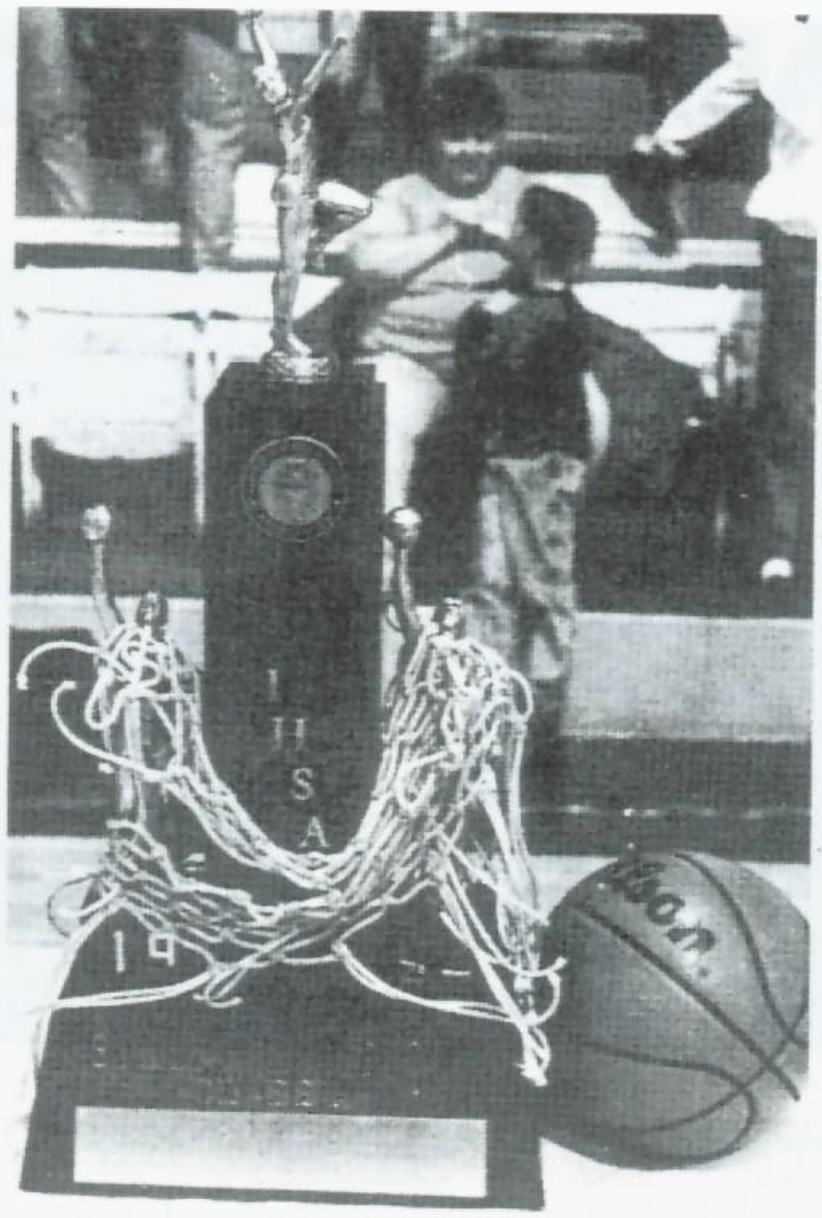
equal courage and integrity, fights to the right spot and the exact instant the ball arrives, sets

SECOND HIGHLIGHTS

up and swishes the gamewinning shot!



e Hawkins and Ryan Bruns after Bruns' game winner



State Championship Trophy

Brett Cleland against Rockford Lutheran

Illinois High School Associati

1993-94 Pinckneyville Panthers

A special pictorial salute by the Du Quoin Evening Call to the 1994 Class A State Champion Pinckneyville Panther Boys Basketball team. Photos from the State Tournament are taken by Tim Petrowich, Jeff Profitt and Dennis Cole. The Cover Photo is taken by Glenn Hamilton.

#21—Shane Hawkins

#20—Ryan Bruns

#42—Garrison Rule

#30—Brett Cleland

#54—Andrew Dagner

#55—Jarritt Sommer

#11—Matt Decker

#35—Ryan Eisenhauer

#22—Shane McGranahan

#45—Anson Konkel

#15—Mark Radake

#23—Jeremy Johnston

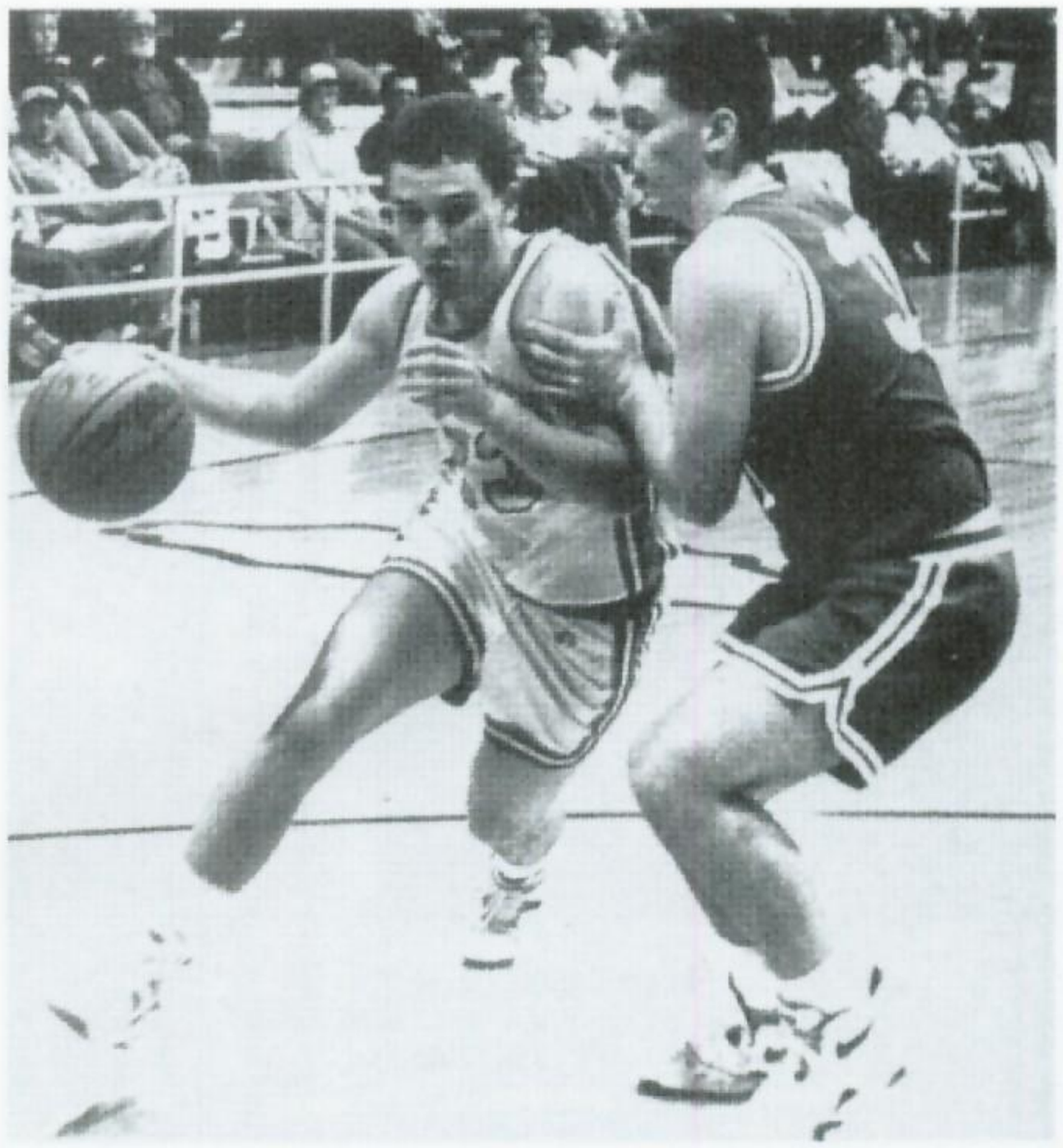
#40—Kevin Kellerman

1995

Panthers
End 20-9

The Pinckneyville Community High School boys' basketball team finished with a record of 20-9 this season. The team also finished the season as Regional Champions with a 2 point win over Steeleville. The Panthers' season ended in the first round of the Sectional when Breese Mater Dei defeated them by 2 points.

Pinckneyville Panthers Boys' Basketball Team: Nick Brooks, Shane McGranahan, Andrew Dagner, Anson Konkel, Kevin Kellerman, Jeremy Johnston, Ben Houghland, Coach Cheek, Jennifer Marlow, mgr.; Coach Hawkins, Kory Shute, mgr.; Matt Lazenby, Cory Plumlee, Michael Doerflein, Jarrod Kreid, Brian Clover, Coach Corn, Coach Choate, and Terry Keller, mgr.



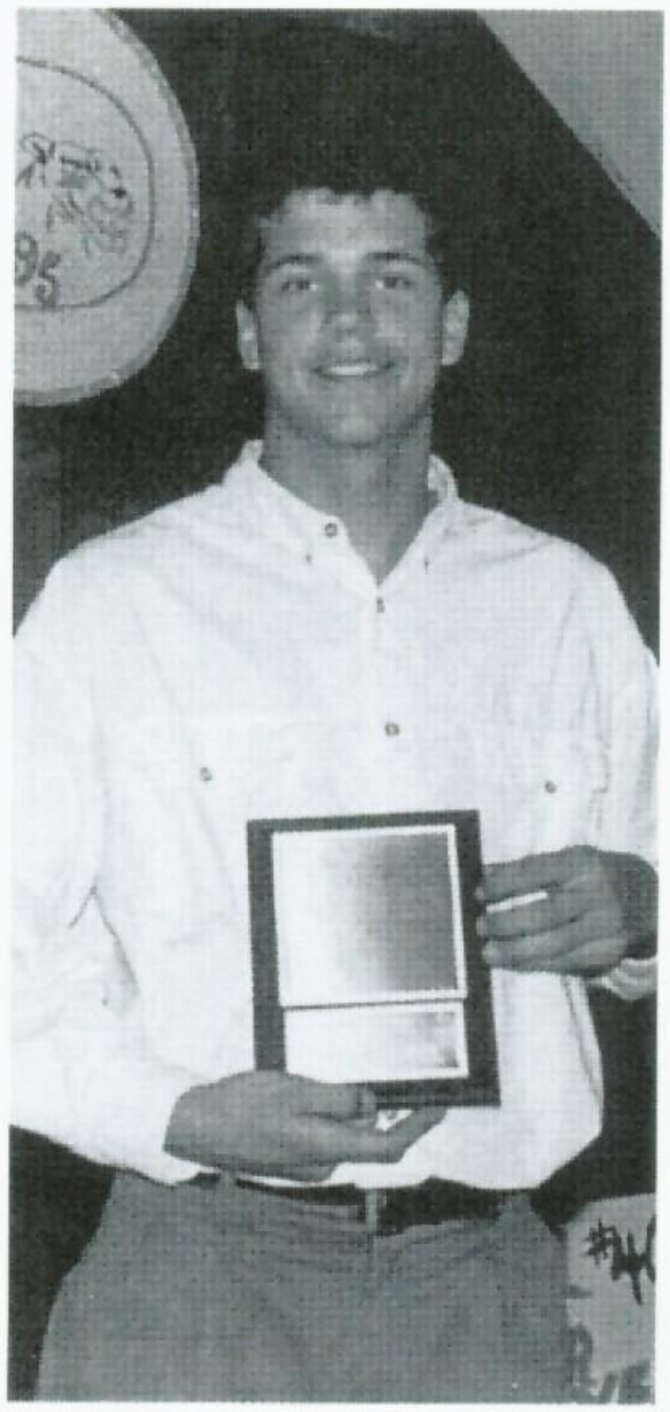
Team Awards and Leaders

Most Valuable Player — Anson Konkel
Most Improved Players — Ben Houghland
Jarrod Kreid
Best Defensive Player — Jeremy Johnston
Best Free Throw Percentage — Andrew Dagner
Most Assists — Jeremy Johnston
Leading Rebounder — Andrew Dagner
Leading Scorer — Anson Konkel

BSKTBAL

1994-95 Schedule

PCHS		Opponent
62	Murphysboro	51
47	Benton	37
31	Sparta	28
74	Chester	41
60	DuQuoin	52
66	Herrin	38
63	Anna-Joensboro	43
	Carbondale Holiday Tournament	
69	Ballard Memorial	46
50	Herrin	40
51	Memphis University	61
61	Carlyle	40
43	Nashville	50
40	Sparta	50
	Benton Tournament	
34	McLeansboro	35
59	Carlyle	41
91	Cairo	55
36	Okawville	49
60	Benton	49
55	Carbondale	57
45	Petersburg Porta	52
75	Meridian	51
65	Chester	43
70	Waterloo-Gibault	62-OT
56	Anna-Joensboro	33
41	Nashville	43
78	DuQuoin	38
	Pinckneyville Regional	
60	Trico	43
48	Steeleville	46
	Sparta Sectional	
44	Mater Dei	46



MVP Anson Konkel

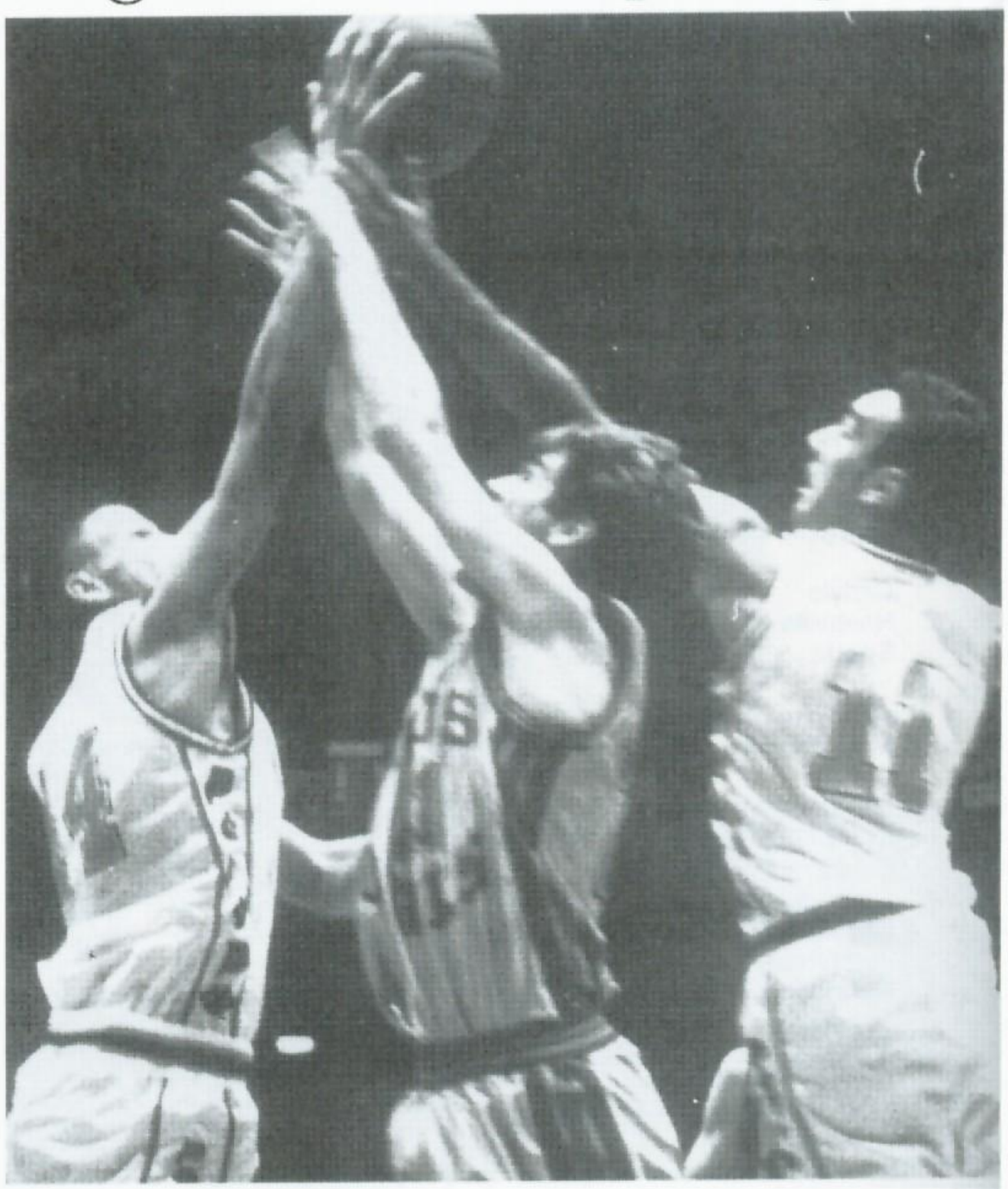
Andrew Dagner led the Panthers in rebounds and free throw percentage.

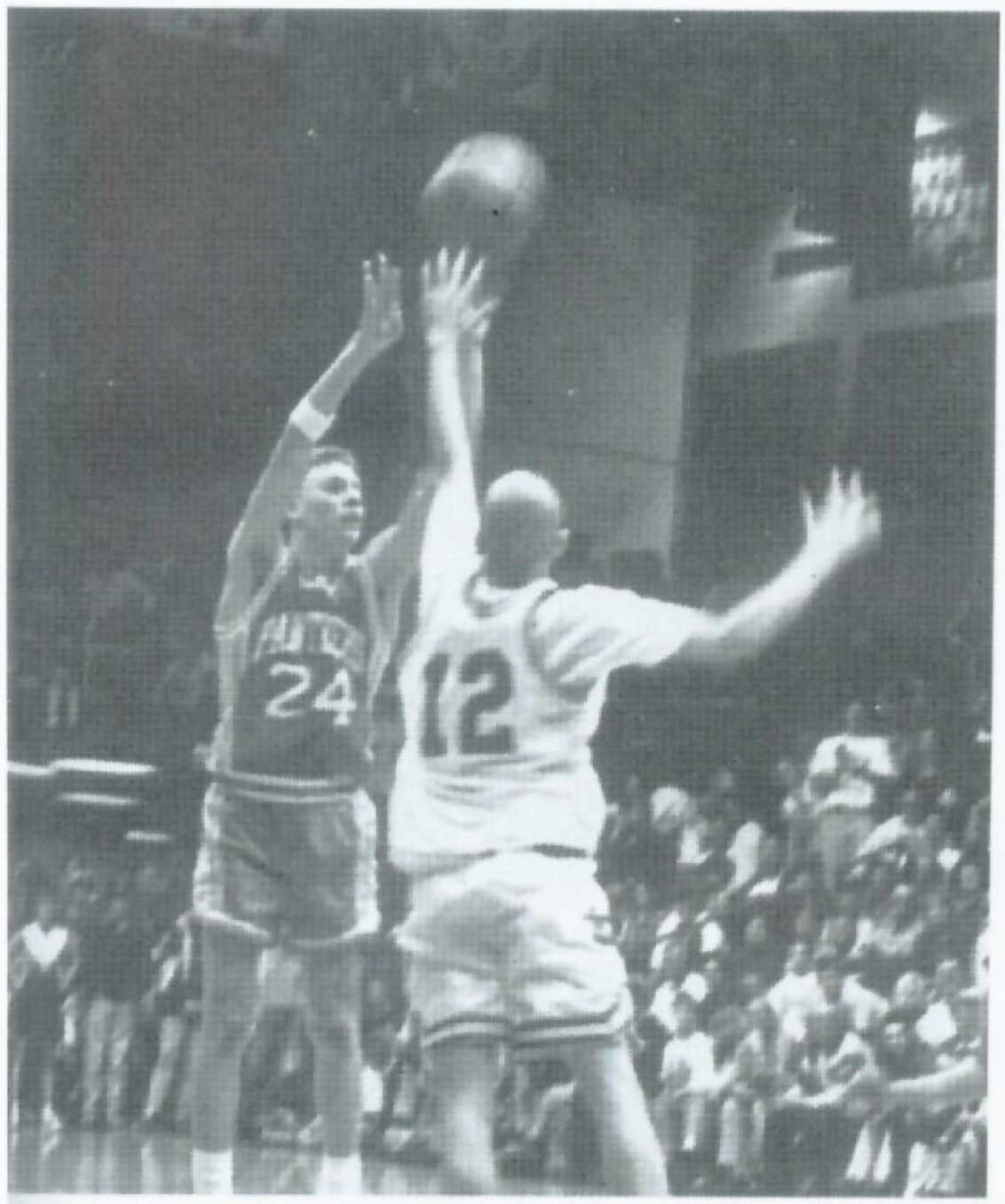
Juniors Ben Houghland and Jarrod Kreid shared the Most Improved Player award.

1996

PCHS		OPPONENT
67	Murphysboro	41
44	Waterloo-Gibault	34
39	University Hts, KY	49
72	Meridian	39
65	DuQuoin	34
66	Carbondale	65
45	Sparta	39
64	Herrin	42
64	Chester	32
65	Carlyle	25
42	Nashville	27
74	DuQuoin	41
65	Petersburg Porta	34
66	Anna-Jonesboro	32
52	Sparta	44
65	Chester	34
49	Anna-Jonesboro	57
57	Nashville	32
	Carbondale Tournament	
78	Cairo	44
52	Carterville	36
32	Memphis Univ.	34
	Benton Tournament	
39	Carlyle	40
78	Cairo	50
43	Benton	29
37	McLeansboro	42
49	Okawville	34
	DuQuoin Regional	
57	Steeleville	38
58	Trico	40
	Benton Sectionals	
69	Colombia	64
34	MaterDei	42
24-6		Record

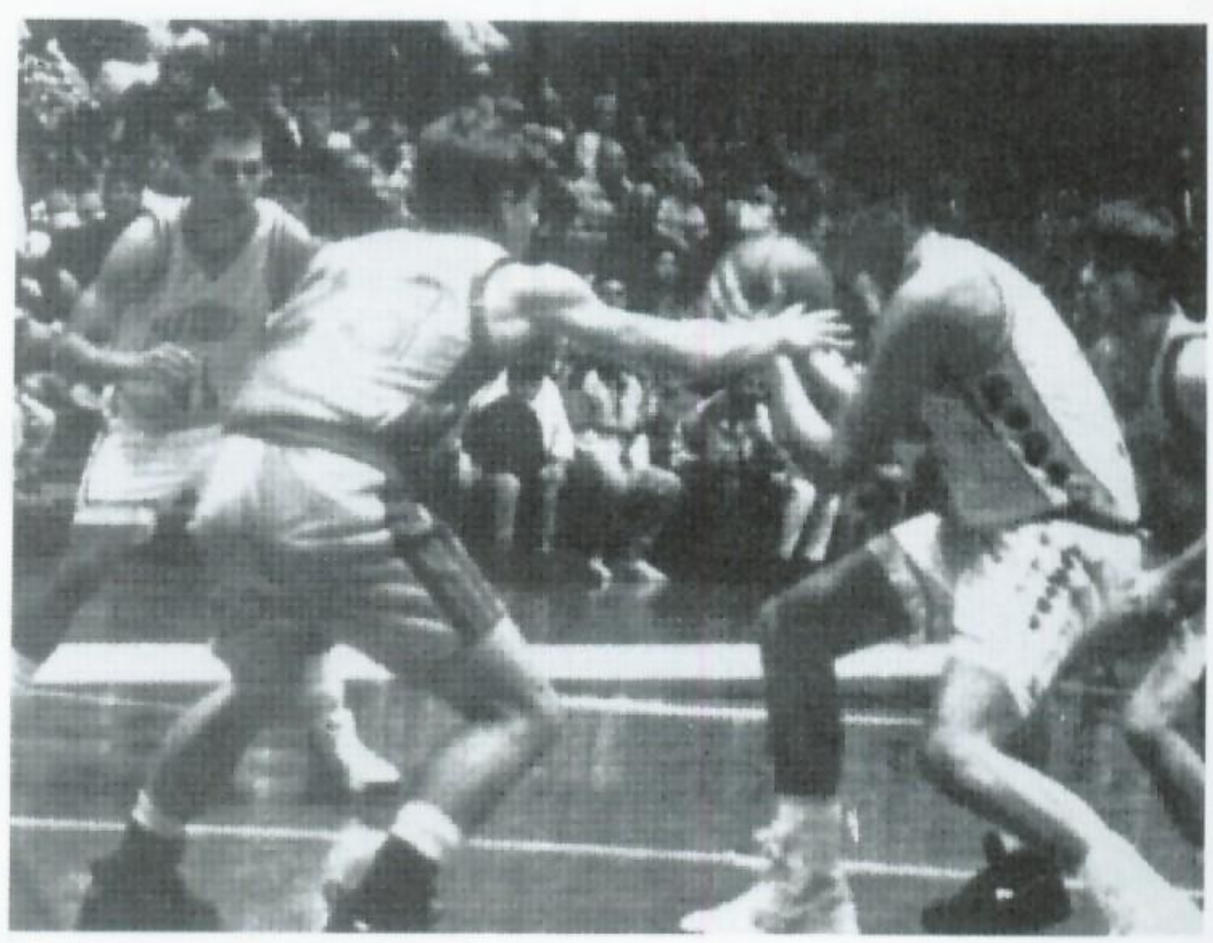
Regional Champs Again!





MVP Jarrod Kreid fires over a Mater Dei defender in sectional final.

Most improved Ryan Cleland battles against McLeansboro at Benton.



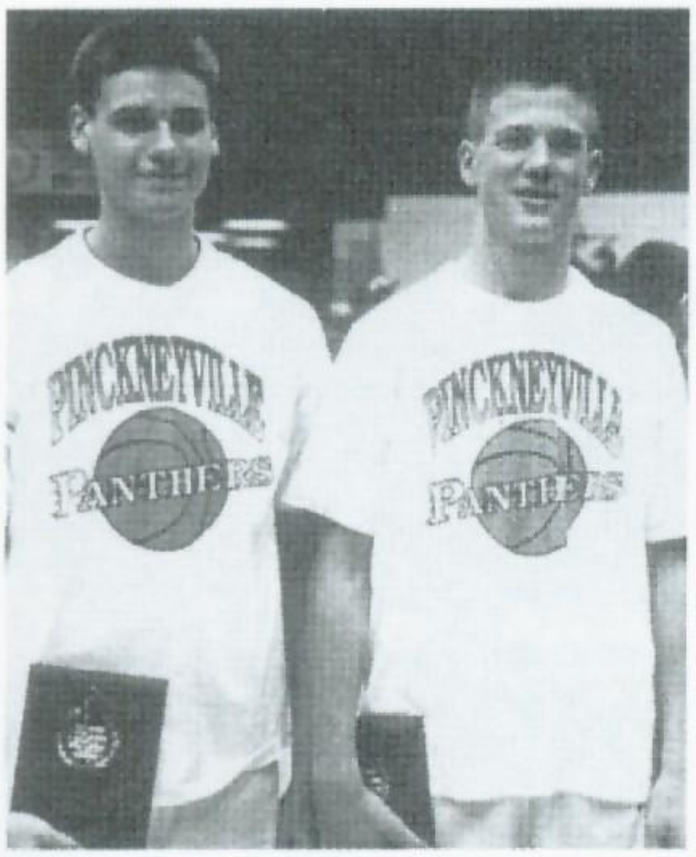
Senior Andrew Dagner checks his defender for possible dish to Brian Clover.

Floor general Matt Lazenby takes the court in the Benton Tourney.

Team / Individual Awards

Most Valuable Player:
Jarrod Kreid
Most Improved Player:
Ryan Cleland
Best Defensive Player:
Cory Plumlee
Best Free Throw Percent:
Jarrod Kreid
Leading Rebounder:
Andrew Dagner
Most Assists:
Jarrod Kreid

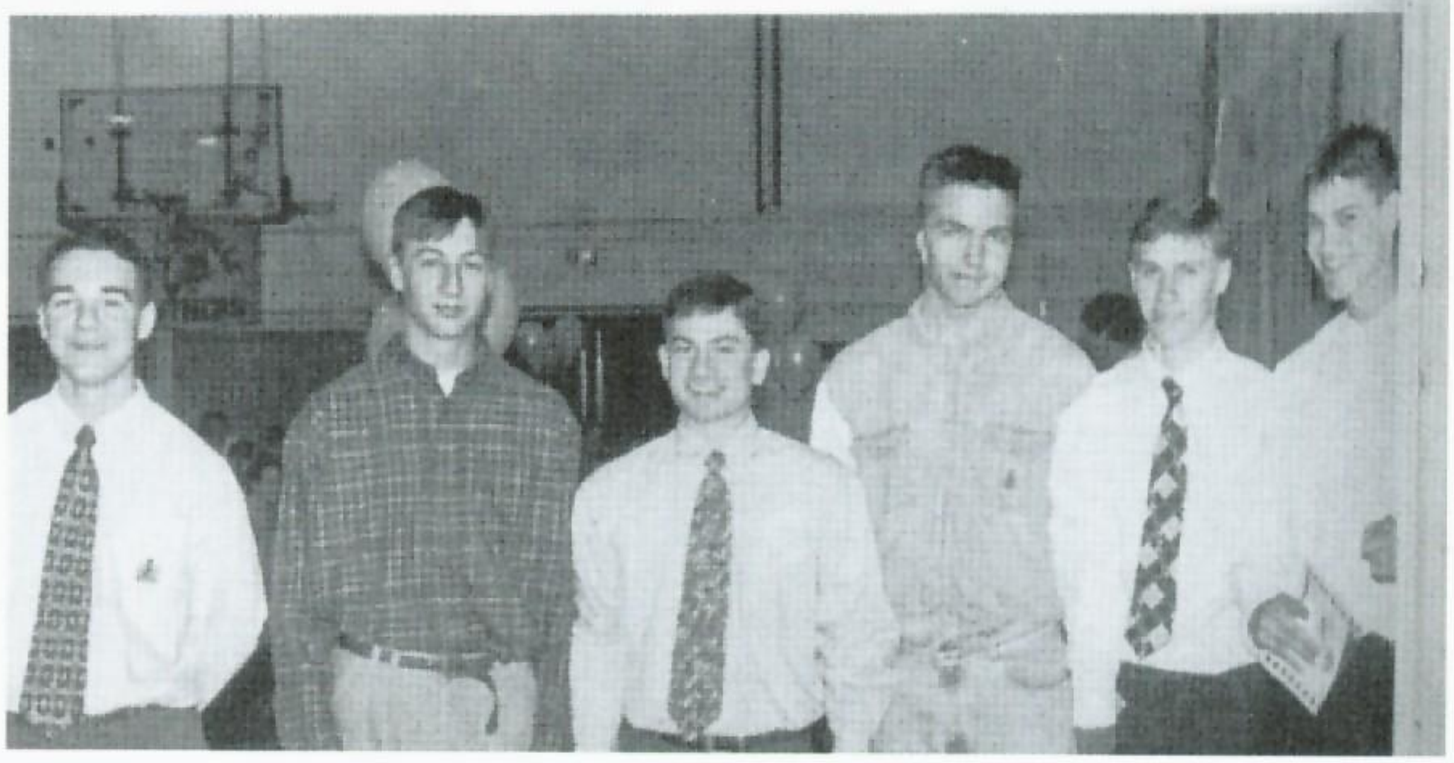
Panthers huddle before Benton Tourney game.



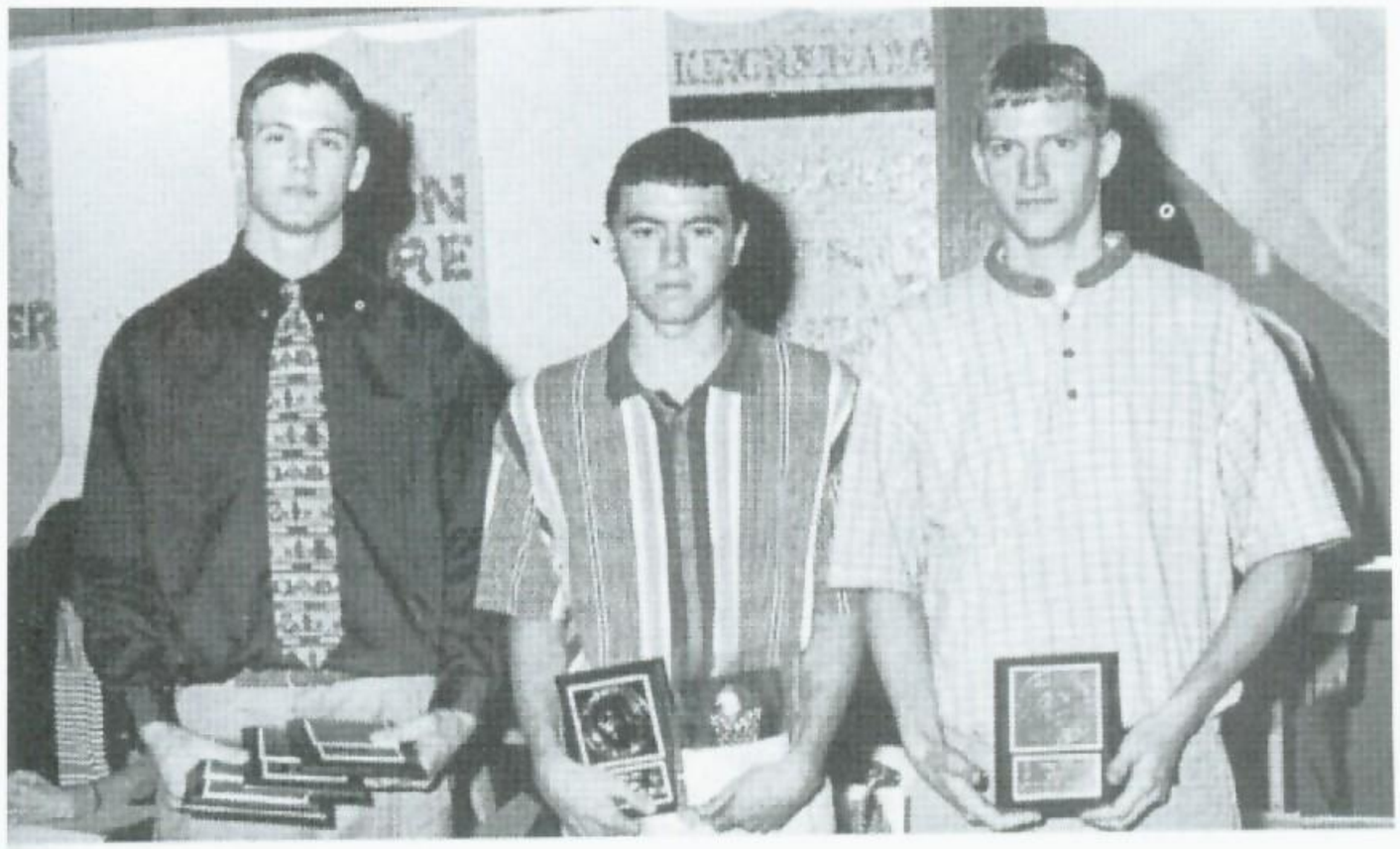
All-Tournament at Benton were Andrew Dagner and Ryan Cleland.

All-Conference Team members were Ryan Cleland, Andrew Dagner, and Jarrod Kreid.

Seniors recognized for their leadership throughout the season: Cory Plumlee, Jason Stone, Matt Lazenby, Ben Houghland, Jarrod Kreid, and Andrew Dagner.



1997



Team/Individual Awards: Most Valuable Player — Ryan Cleland; *Most Improved Player* — Kevin Kopshever; *Best Defensive Player* — Michael Doerflein, *Best Free Throw Percentage* — Kevin Kopshever; *Most Assists* — Ryan Cleland; *Most Rebounds* — Ryan Cleland, *Benton All-Tournament Team* — Kevin Kopshever and Ryan Cleland; *All-Conference Selections* — Michael Doerflein and Ryan Cleland.

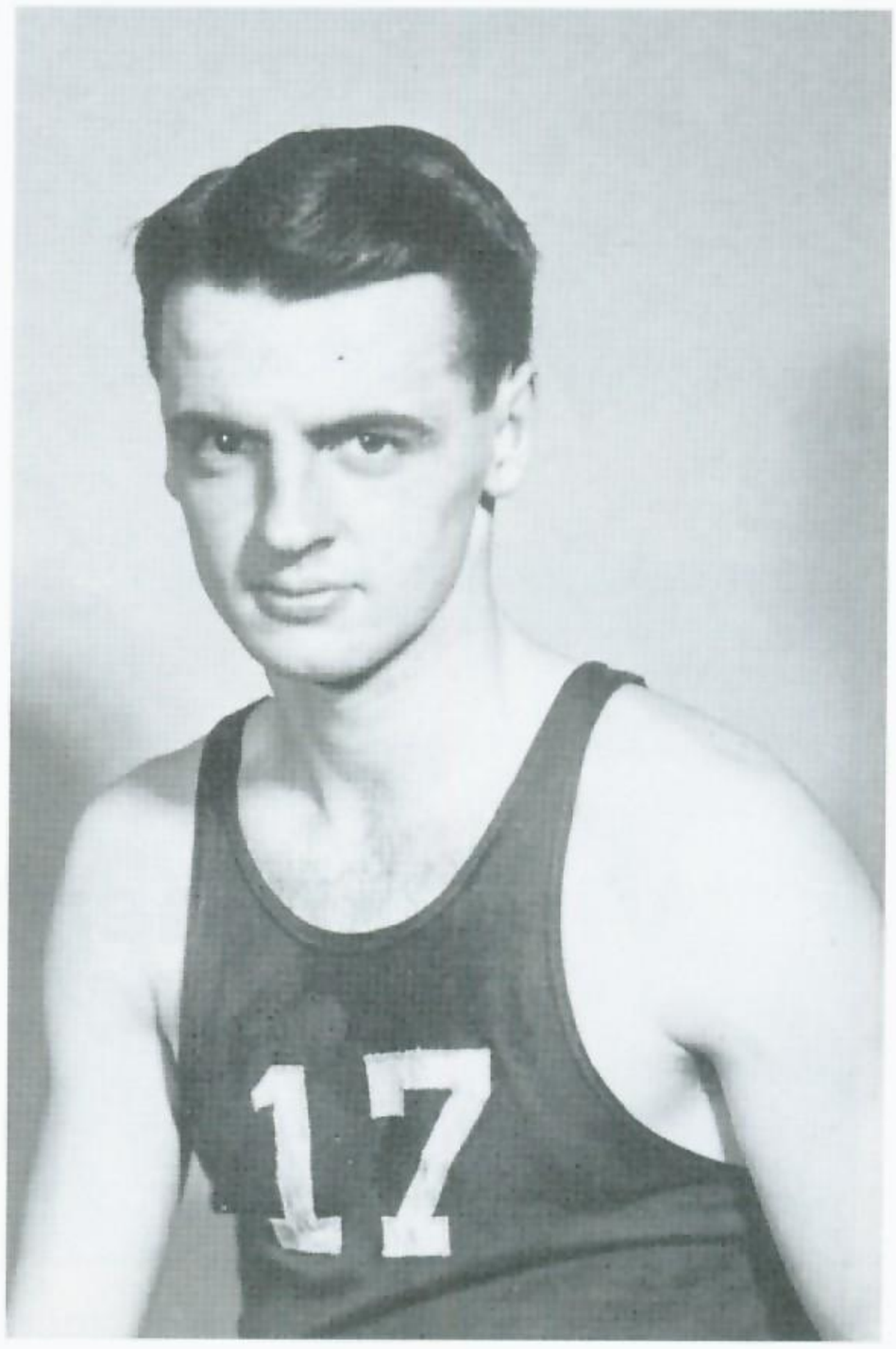
PCHS		Opponent
43	Murphysboro	48
48	University Heights	53
43	Blytheville, AR	48
63	DuQuoin	36
44	Carbondale	54
64	Sparta	55
72	Herrin	43
69	Chester	57
75	Carlyle	52
69	Waterloo Gibault	52
25	Nashville	41
60	DuQuoin	38
53	Columbia	62
48	Sparta	35
52	Anna-Jonesboro	48
35	Chester	42
72	Anna-Jonesboro	38
57	Nashville	50
	Carbondale Holiday Tournament	
49	Carterville	38
47	Murphysboro	39
39	Union City, TN	45
	Benton Invitational Tournament	
75	Cairo	55
52	Carlyle	39
64	Benton	40
42	Okawville	43
58	McLeansboro	37
	Trico Regional	
92	Coulterville	27
65	Steeleville	45
37	Trico	52

1998

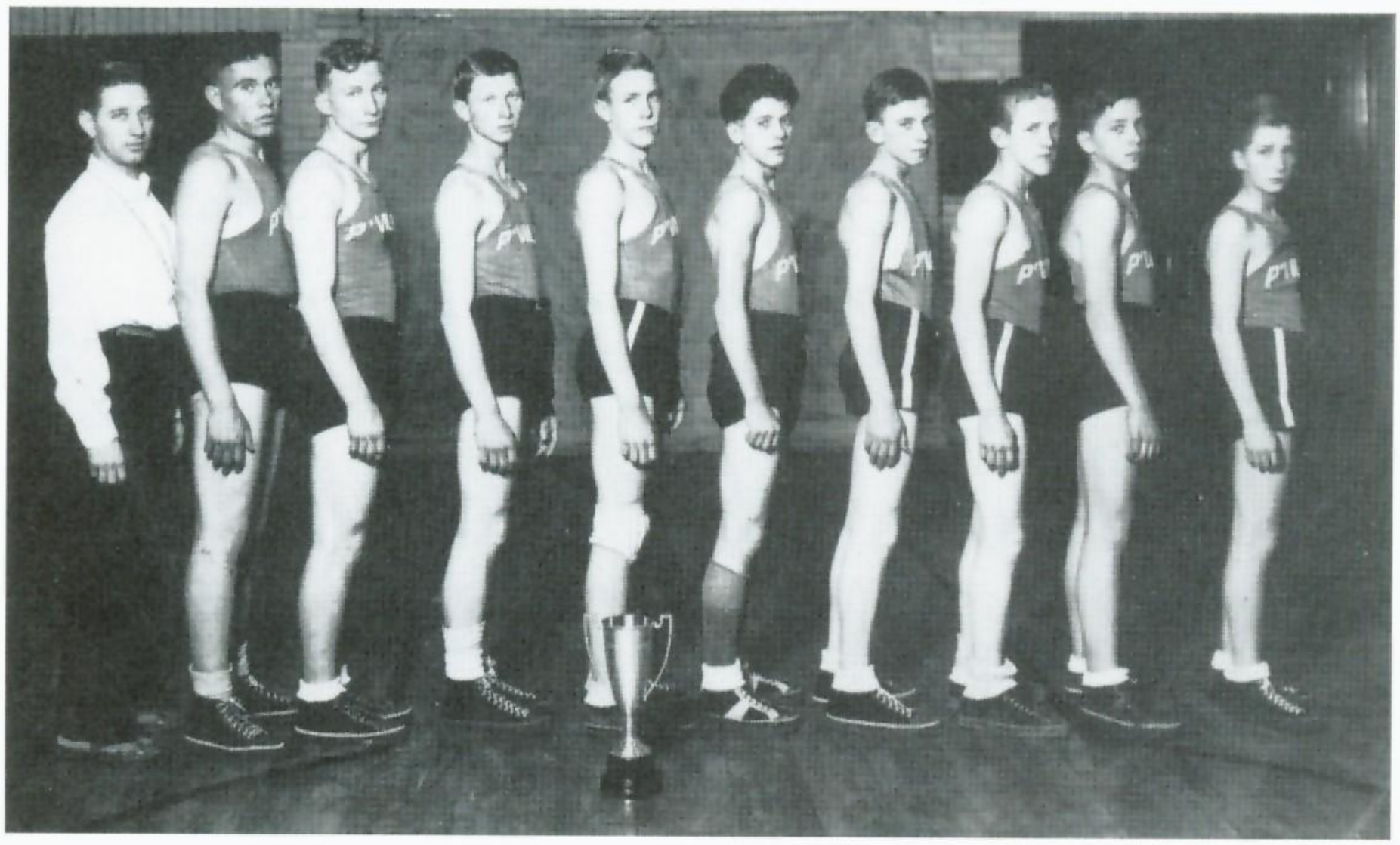
Front row - Kevin Kopshever, Bobby Robinson, James Gresham, Jeremy Keith, Josh Schulz, Nathan Brooks, David Helvy. Second row - Coach Mike Cheek, Coach Tom Hawkins, Schott Hagene, Lucas Olson, Jeff Campbell, Kevin Smith, William Reagan, Craig Epplin, Coach Dick Corn, Coach Wes Choate. Team managers Nick Pittman, Jeremy Grab, (not shown).

Panthers off to another good start. Upset nunber two ranked Nashville Hornets; Beat Carlyle for Coach Corn's 500th win.

VII. Panther Scrapbook Memories

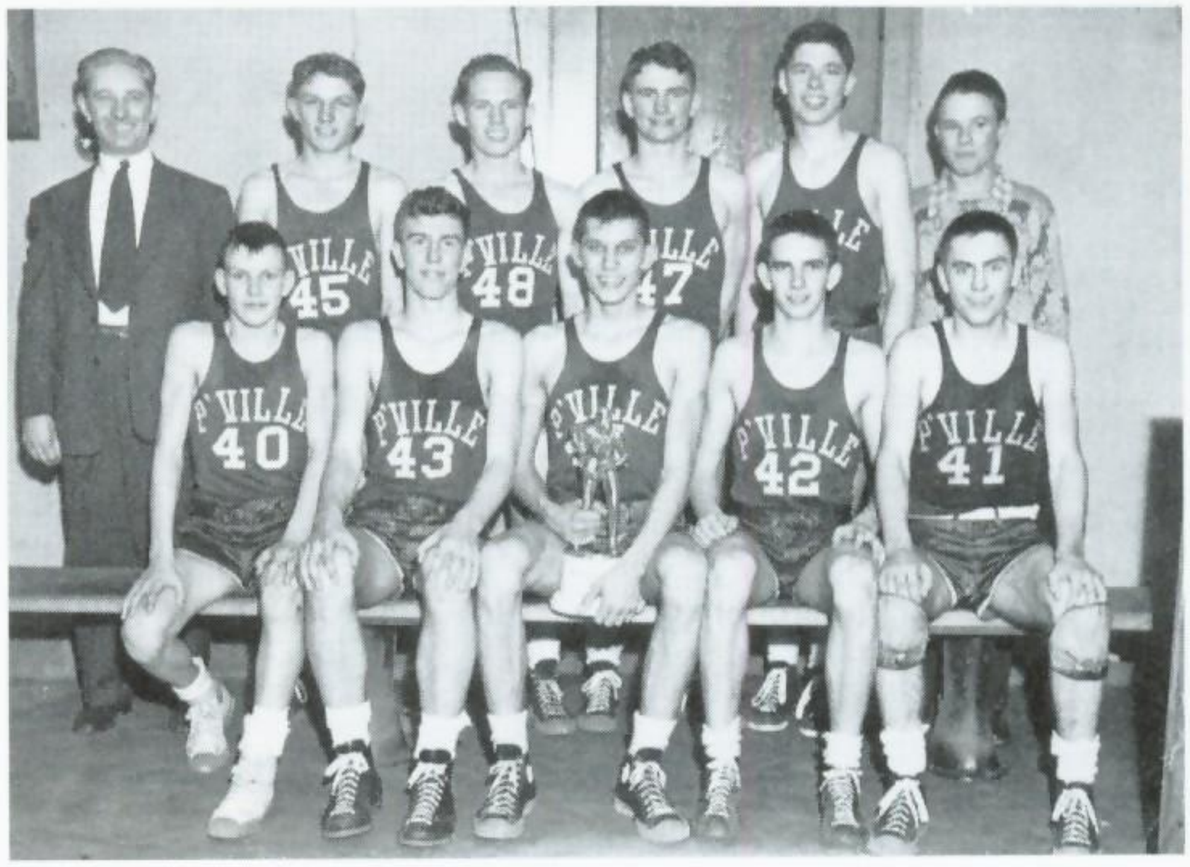


Gene Stotlar



Duster and 1935 Fresh-Soph Team

PANTHERS
23


45
48
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46

12

LOYAL PANTHER FANS ENTER TROPHY "HASSLE"

Since the Du Quoin news media has uncovered the dastardly deed perpetrated upon the Du Quoin basketball team of 1943-44, by a person, or persons unknown, some 17 years ago, and claim to have solved half of the problem, the Advocate will unravel the rest of the mystery for them.

At Tuesday night's Chamber of Commerce meeting in Pinckneyville, Dr. Gene, (Tougher) Stotlar, who was a member of the controversial 1943-44 basketball team, enlightened this reporter with the true facts as he observed them.

Said Doc, "During the war years no trophies were made. After the war, five years of trophies were shipped out to high schools. It just "Happened" that Pinckneyville got the Du Quoin trophy, by mistake. Doc went on to say that Pinckneyville won the first conference tussle with DuQuoin and lost the second also losing another game along the way to make them 8-2 for conference play and Du Quoin 9-1. So Du Quoin has rightful claim to a championship trophy for that season.

Now the whole puzzle is solved, and the matter of adjustment will have to be settled to the satisfaction of all concerned.

THOMAS REACTS

Duster Thomas, coach during this hectic time, is quoted as making the statement, "If you fellows need some trophies, come on over and get some. We've got lots of them. "Typical reaction of a "died in the wool" Panther mentor.

"PIECE de RESISTANCE"

The following is a reprint from the Du Quoin Magnavox, DuQuoin Township High School paper printed in 1944. This was reported and and printed the day before Du Quoin met Pinckneyville for the Regional Championship in the 1943-44 season. It rates a place alongside of the Chicago Tribune's headline in 1948, "Dewey Defeats Truman". This was supplied from the scrapbook kept for Doc Stotlar by his parents. The Indian reporter was truly Red-faced for several days, probably weeks, after the publication came out. You see, Pinckneyville won the Regional that year, not Du Quoin. Skeletons in the closet? No, Mr. Huff was only trying to get ahead of the game. A dangerous news practice!

Pinckneyville Coach "Duster" Thomas by Cartoonist Marlow

P'VILLE
35
P'VILLE
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P'VILLE
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P'VILLE
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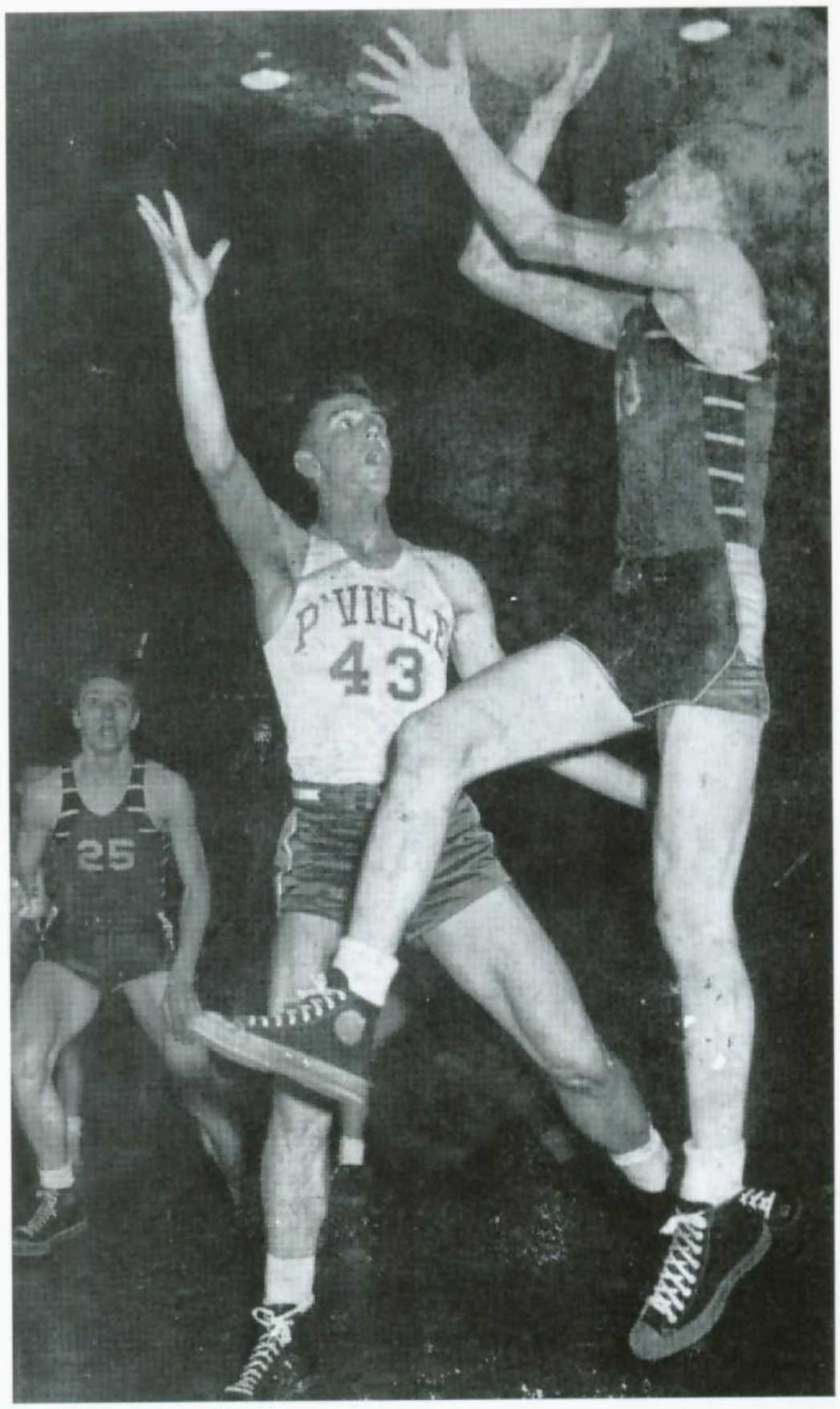
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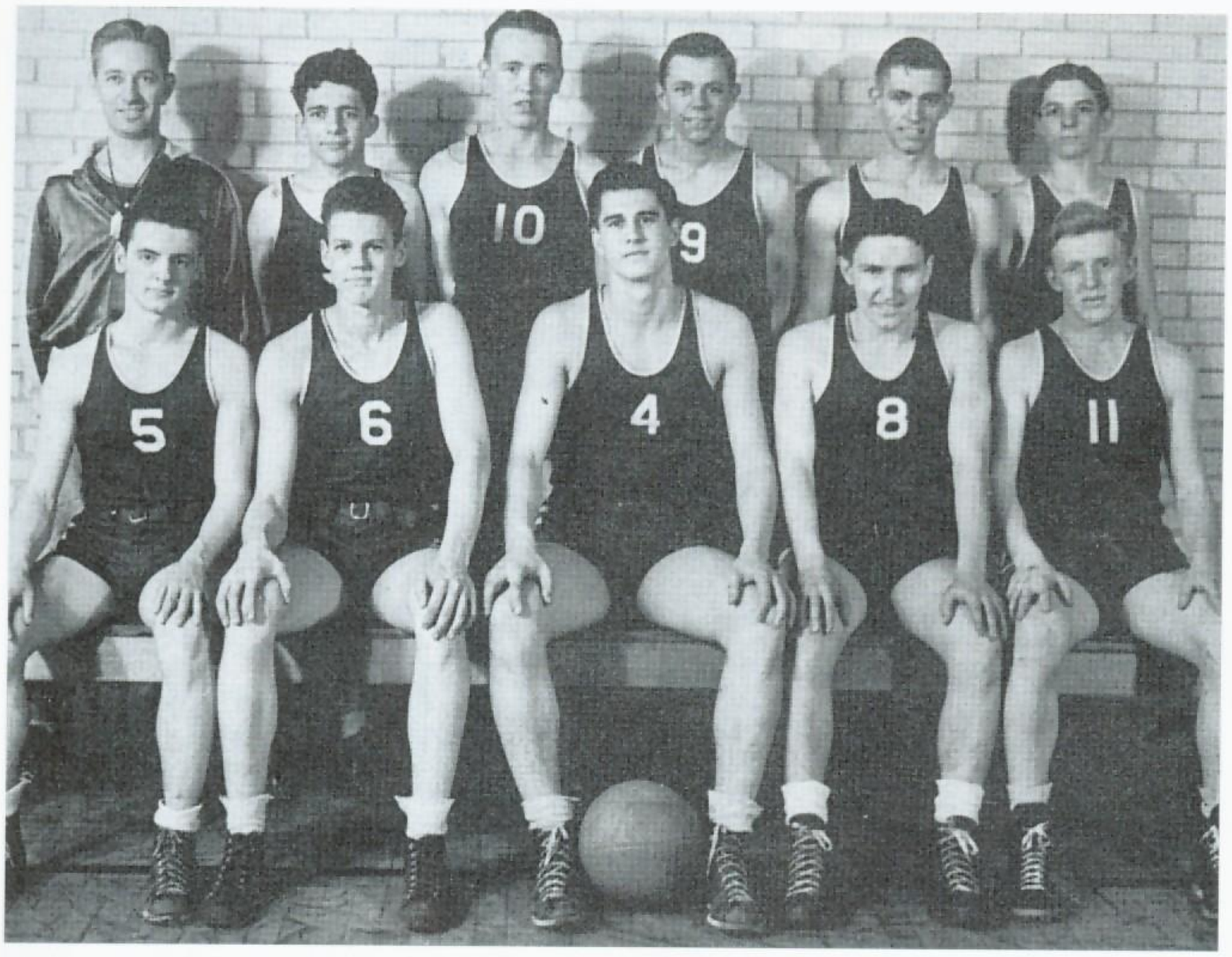
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The
Pinckneyville
Democrat
Newspaper
Congratulates
The
PCHS Panthers
And Their
Heritage
Of
Winning Basketball
Go Panthers!

1988

1988

PCHS BASKETBALL, 1992 - 93
1993

PCHS BASKETBALL 1994 / 95
1995

P.C.H.S. BASKETBALL
1995 - 96
1996

PINCKNEYVILLE HIGH SCHOOL
1990
GYMNASIUM

1994 IHSA STATE CHAMPIONS

'97-'98 PCHS Booster Club Officers
Tami Robinson, Lynn Brooks, Keith Johnston, Lou Johnston, Judy Kopshever

1994 Number One Team In The State

1998
Pinckneyville High School
1997 - 98